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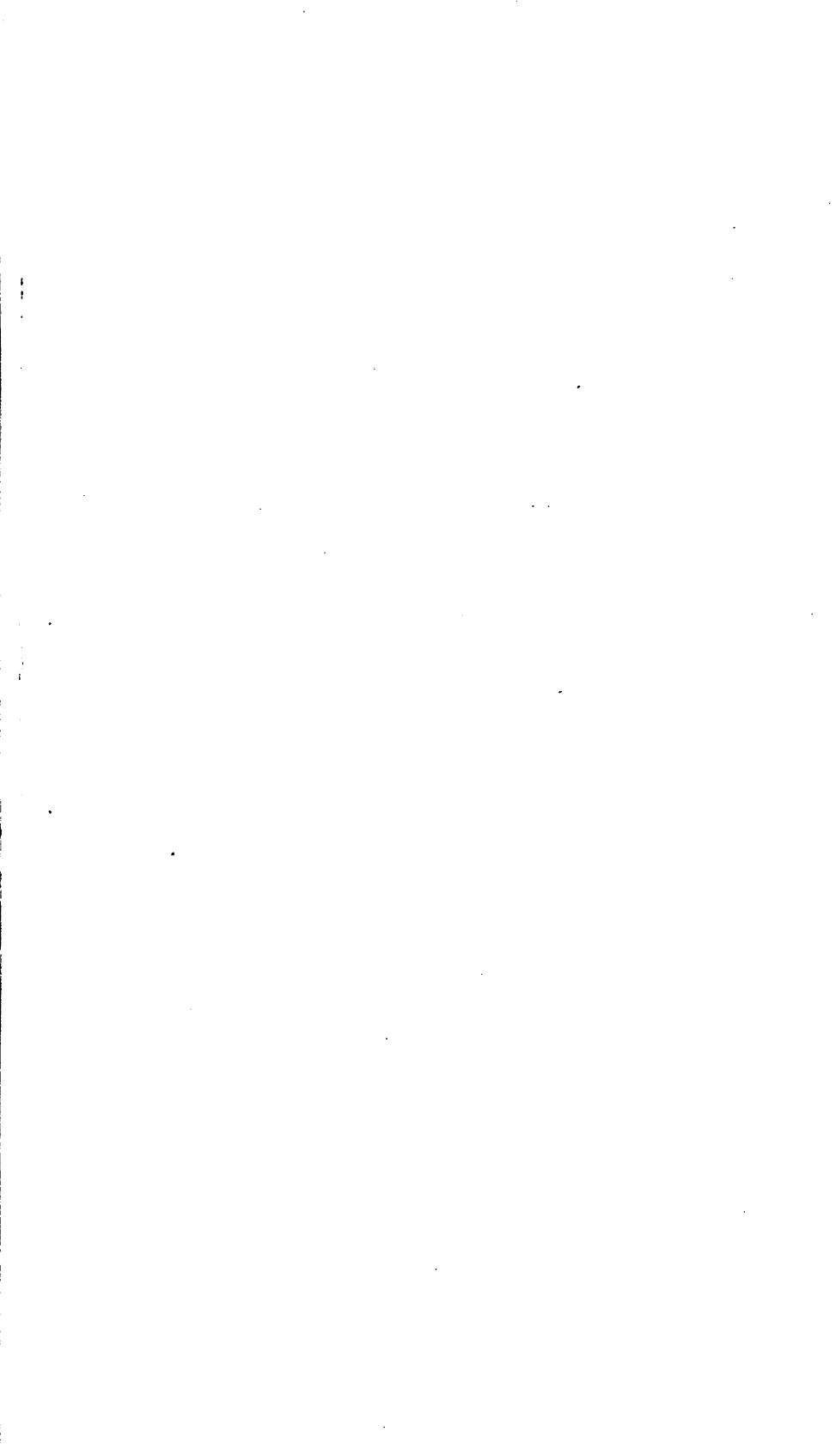
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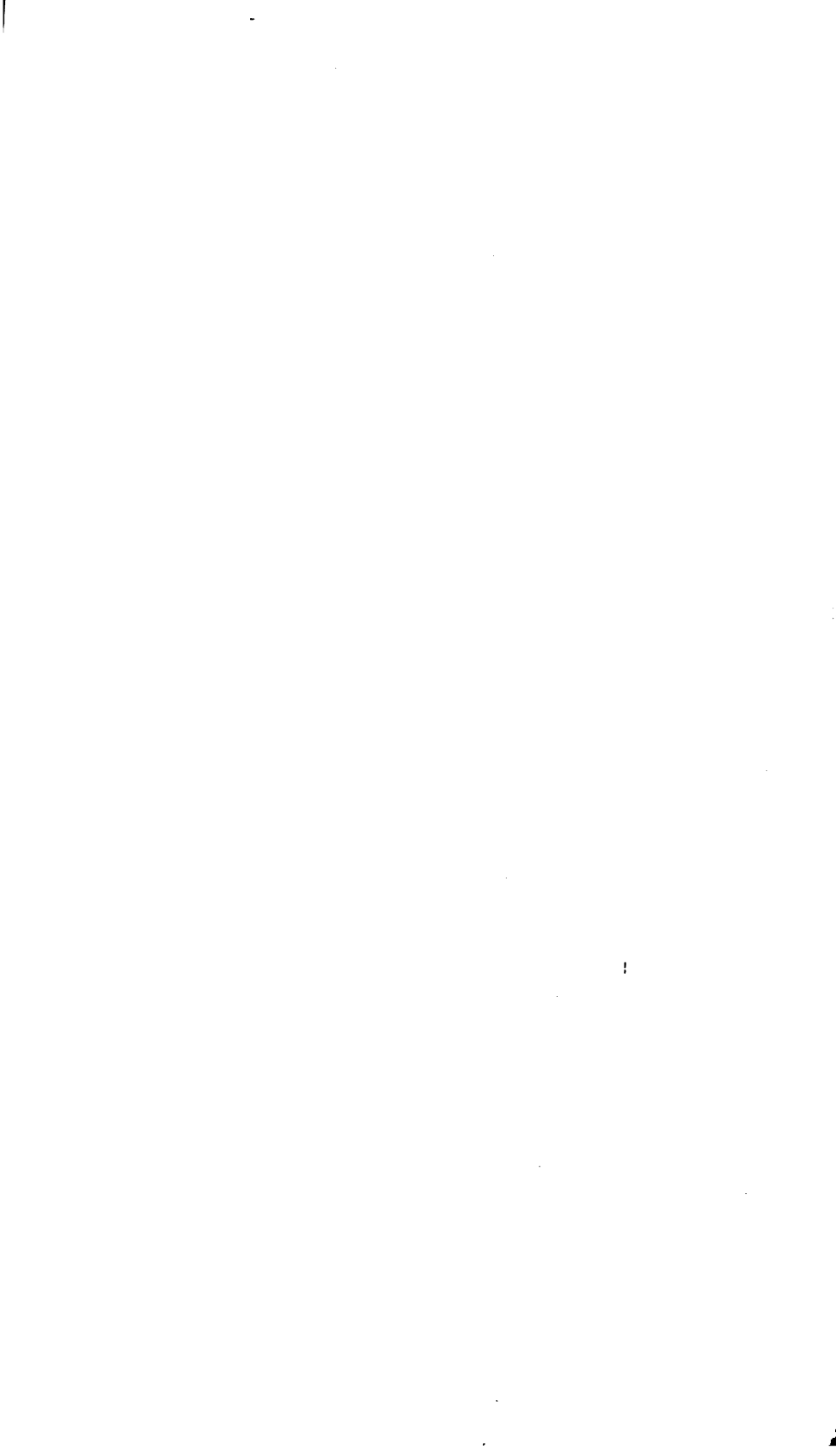
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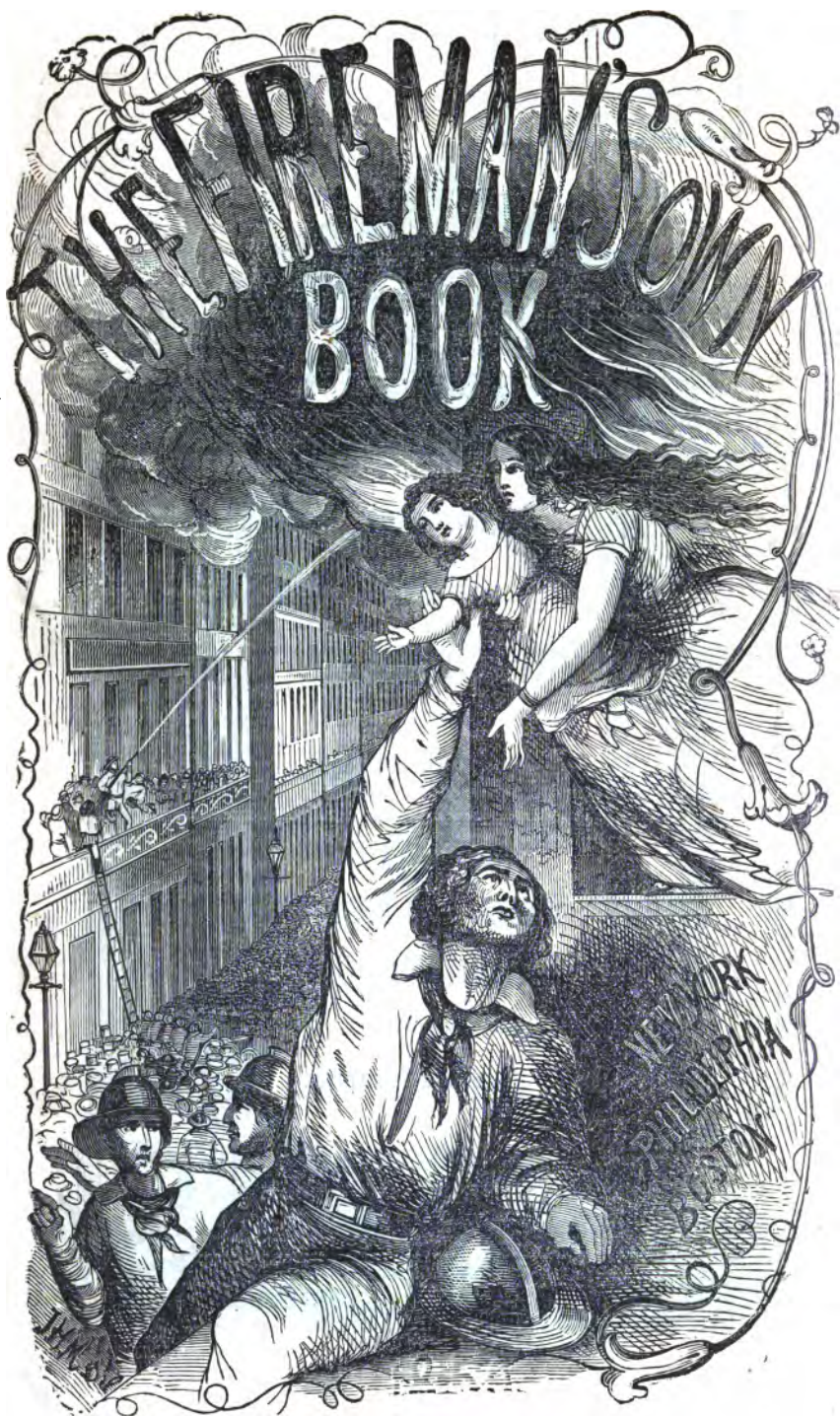




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THE
FIREMAN'S
OWN BOOK:

CONTAINING ACCOUNTS OF

Fires throughout the United States,

AS WELL AS OTHER COUNTRIES;

REMARKABLE ESCAPES FROM THE DEVOURING ELEMENT;

Heroic Conduct of Firemen in Cases of Danger;

MEANS OF EXTINGUISHING FIRES;

**ACCOUNTS OF FIREMEN WHO HAVE LOST
THEIR LIVES WHILE ON DUTY;**

TOGETHER WITH

**Facts, Incidents and Suggestions, Interesting and Valuable
to Firemen and Citizens generally.**

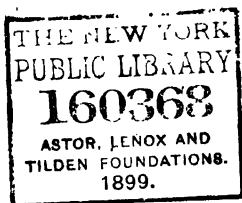
BY GEO. P. LITTLE.

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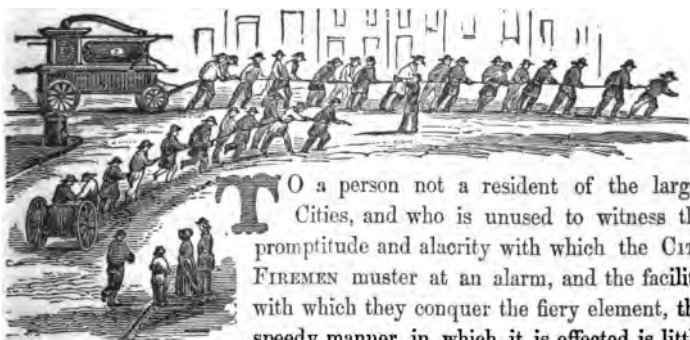
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ILLUSTRATED

BOOK OF FIRES.

The Scene of a City Fire.



O a person not a resident of the larger Cities, and who is unused to witness the promptitude and alacrity with which the CITY FIREMEN muster at an alarm, and the facility with which they conquer the fiery element, the speedy manner in which it is effected is little less than miraculous. You are horror-struck at viewing erections of the most combustible description, exposed to the combined action of vast sheets of flame, and a raging wind ; and before you have time to reflect on the amount of property likely to be destroyed, the exposure to be endured, and the lives placed in jeopardy—Behold ! the destructive element is conquered ! its crimson tongues, which hissed defiance, are silenced, and the languid struggles of the palsied flames, exhibit the impotence of the dying gladiator.

Although I have become so far identified with the City by a residence from childhood, that its sights and sounds are incorporated with my earliest recollections, — yet even in me the occurrence of an imposing fire at night creates no little excitement and interest. First, the slow meas-

ured chimes of the deep sounding bells come booming over the roofs of the houses, insinuating themselves into your ear in the dead watches of the night, when your senses are locked in oblivion ; and if you are a heavy sleeper, and the mammoth sentinels fail to arouse you, there are brazen tongues of lesser note, which one by one swell the nocturnal chorus, until the most deeply magnetized slumberer is startled by their rude summons. But if fatigue and lassitude cause you to turn sluggishly on your side, and you endeavor, by burying yourself under the coverlets, to shut out the discordant notes, lay not the flattering unctio to your soul, that success has crowned your exertions. Lo ! from beneath your casement the cry of "*Fire! Fire!! Fire!!!*" is screamed with sufficient force and energy to frighten you from your propriety ; and, as if that was not enough, the ponderous engine rattles along the pavement with such vehemence, that your very bed trembles beneath you. The foreman of the company shouts through his trumpet with appalling vigor ; the watchman sounds his rattle, or strikes the sidewalk with his well-seasoned club, the echo from which reverberates with fearful distinctness ; the noise increases, until you are doubtful whether your own house is not on fire : and at length, what with alarm and vexation, you are fain to submit to your fate by leaping on the floor, and raising the sash to take an observation.

If the night is dark, that optical illusion which has led many a poor wight to follow the light of a City Fire, until it seemed, like the fountains of Tantalus, to recede from his approach, causes you to hastily array yourself in suitable apparel to encounter the night air ; and a moment finds you among the moving mass, shouting *Fire!* at the top of your voice, determined, if compelled to the encounter, to demean yourself like a well-bred citizen, by extending to your neighbors the same interesting information which the multitude has lavished on you.

And now the scene really becomes exciting ! — the rolling engines have imparted to you a portion of the ardor which animates their leather-capped propellers : you forget that street after street has been passed, since you emerged from your door ; your walk insensibly increases to a trot, your trot to a gallop — until, nearly exhausted, you are confronted by the curling flames.

If you are deeply interested in the stock of a fire insurance company, your first reflection leads you to ponder on the risks taken in that locality — if in the jobbing trade, your memory reverts, with surprising

facility, to the debtor side of your ledger, to ascertain whether the names of the sufferers are therein recorded ; and, if exempt from the calamities incident to either position, you look, with that placid composure, on the scene, which ancient and modern philosophers have ever exhibited when dwelling on the mishaps of their particular friends ! — But soon the enthusiasm of the less sober part of the crowd communicates itself to your inner man ; you view, with thrilling interest, the movements of yonder brave man, who has, at the risk of his life, succeeded in rescuing the infant which he brings to the arms of its frantic mother,—and now



your attention is fixed upon his brother Fireman, ascending the roof of an elevated building, the interior of which is in flames ! You hold your breath, as he quits the falling rafters to perch, like an eagle, on the brick or stone abutment which trembles beneath his weight, and are dizzy with gazing on his form, now blackened with smoke, now crimson with flame ; until your alarm is converted into admiration as you see him grasp the pipe and shout, with perfect self-possession, "*Play away, number twelve !*" But soon the sounds rapidly increase in breadth and volume. Engine

after engine rolls along, until scores are stationed around the scene of action ; the Engineers and Foremen direct the course of their machines from point to point ; the junior members of the brotherhood fly with the speed of thought from front to rear, and from rear to front, displaying all the impetuosity of youth, with the regularity of experience. The well disciplined senior, with anxious but collected countenance, directs his efforts with precision and force. The more timid of the unhoused sufferers rush along in wild alarm, while the self-possessed gather up the fragments, snatched from the devouring element, and are occupied in transporting them to a place of safety. But a huge column of flame and smoke now pierces the heavens, and the crash of falling timbers, and masses of brick and stone, is heard high above the din. The well-trained Fireman has just quitted his perilous station on the wall, and covered with cinders, ashes and mortar, appears unhurt among his comrades.

And now look about you, if a lover of the picturesque, and view a scene worthy of the delineation of a Hogarth. Stretched as far as the eye can reach on either hand, the motley crowd are illuminated by the ocean of flame which rolls and darts from side to side, as if lashing itself into fury, preparatory to a final struggle. Here may be seen standing out in bold relief the haggard lineaments of Vice—the bloated face and distended eye-balls of Dissipation—the fierce glance of Passion—the clouded visage of Anxiety—the wrinkled brow of Care—the furrowed cheek of Grief—the withered form of Disease—the tattered garb of Penury. Yonder stands the pampered favorite of Wealth jostled by the beggar who was but now spurned from his door ; virtue and vice, male and female—all conditions, sexes, colors and ranks, are here mingled in temporary fellowship—every feature exposed, and every form distinct in the glare of this artificial day.

But the scene appears not alone to the eye. Every emotion which agitates the human breast here finds a voice. The wild cry of terror, the boisterous shout of merriment, the reckless glee of boyhood, the feeble wail of infancy, the agonizing shriek of suffering, the rude rebuke of austerity, the alluring accents of deceit, the stern mandates of authority, are all blended in strange discord.

The wily courtesan is playing her insinuating tale into the charmed ear of some country dupe ; the curious searcher after hidden secrets accosts each bystander, in turn, to ascertain the cause of the conflagration, the names of the sufferers, and the amount of loss ; the mechanic whispers to his fellow that it's an ill wind that blows nobody any good ; the

thirsty wine-bibber seeks a convenient tavern ; the lark out on a "spree" jeers and elbows every one he meets, until some "ugly customer" lays him sprawling in the gutter ; the Engineer issues his orders through his speaking trumpet—the crackling flames chronicle the progress of events ; the sufferer laments his fate, and all the opposite and varied feelings of the throng burst audibly on the ear of the listener.

But ere long the raging element wanes before the powerful efforts of the Firemen ; the gaping crowd, one by one, steal away to their several places of residence ; the successful pickpocket bears away his ill-gotten wealth to enjoy a night of debauchery, and on the morrow becomes the tenant of a prison ; and before you are aware, the multitude have vanished, and you are comparatively alone, and in darkness.

Such is a City Fire. That there is a certain wild excitement connected with the discharge of the duties of a Fireman, cannot be doubted. It arouses the energies of the enthusiastic, and appeals to the pride of the daring. The City Fireman is indeed a study. The class to which he belongs is *unique*. Every true member of the department is an enthusiast. His engine is to him, what Bucephalus was to Alexander. By no meaner hand must its rapid course be steered. He will do battle with a giant who questions the superiority of his "machine." What ! any other engine "wash" the "saucy number thirteen ?" The assertion is monstrous ! not to be endured—blood can scarcely wash out the insult !

Sleeping with one eye open, he is ever ready for an alarm. The first tap of the bell arouses him from slumber, and ere it has "tolled thrice," he is speeding on his way, to rescue life and property from destruction, for the love he bears the human race. A utilitarian in precept and practice, the drone receives no countenance from him. He scorns timidity, but sluggishness is his abhorrence. A philanthropist in its most enlarged sense, neither friendship nor enmity quickens or retards his movements. "*Faithful and fearless !*" is his motto, and he lives up to its exactions.

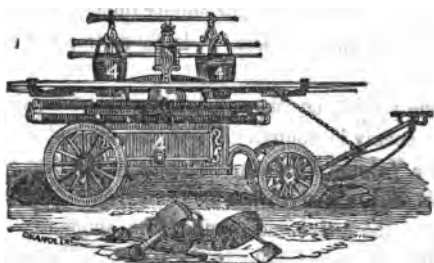
Like a true patriot, he has enlisted for the campaign, and will not pause till the enemy is routed. View yon ancient relic of the department. He is a Veteran Fireman. Unable to compete with his youthful successors, his soul is nevertheless in the contest. Hovering around the scene, he cheers the active and rebukes the sluggard. He remembers the days of his glory, and sighs to think they will never return.

The heart of the true Fireman is open as the day to melting charity. For the widow or orphan of a deceased brother, his purse is ever open

and ready. Like all brave men he is courteous and fair, and the Adonis of a ball-room will not hand a lady to her station in the cotillon with more genuine grace than that with which he escorts the alarmed female sufferer to a place of security. Personal hazard is with him a plaything. He sports with danger, and laughs at peril. Although occasionally the hero of his own tale, yet he is no egotist. He attracts your attention to the scenes in which his own prowess is conspicuous; yet the whole is related as a matter of course, and not as events to excite either wonder or admiration. The victor in an hundred fights, yet, like the throne-dispenser of Europe, the Fireman meets his Waterloo, as at New York in December, 1835, at Nantucket in 1846, at Albany in 1848, &c.

Obedience to orders is the Fireman's cardinal duty—but attachment, not fear, prompts the ready compliance. He serves his Chief with the fidelity due to a trusty comrade, rather than a haughty superior. The rallying cry of the leader is "*Come on!*" and he follows—for the dangers he braves have been encountered by his Chief. Rocked as it were in the cradle of excitement, his feelings are proverbially ardent, but the hostility of the moment finds no lodgement in his breast; with due reparation ceases all remembrance of wrong. The romantic attachment to his machine, may be observed in the beauty of its decorations. The elaborate polish of the brass work, and the elegant painting on the barrel, are tokens of his regard.

To sum up all, the Fireman is a generous friend, a good citizen, and a disinterested philanthropist. May the fountain of his happiness be exhaustless as his benevolence.



Burning of the Theatre at Richmond, Va., Dec. 26, 1811, attended with great Loss of Life.



MORE heart-rending and melancholy event than that of the burning of the Theatre on Shockee Hill, Richmond, Va., has never, perhaps, taken place in this country. As it is a matter which caused general mourning at the time, throughout the United States, and is often mentioned at the present day, we have taken great pains to prepare a full and accurate account of the awful calamity, obtained from the most authentic sources. On Thursday night, December 26th, 1811, the Richmond Theatre was attended by an unusual number of people. The fatal night had been set apart for the benefit of Mr. Placide, (father of the present actors of that name,) and a pantomime, entitled "Agnes and Raymond, or the Bleeding Nun," translated for the occasion by Mr. Girardin, was to have closed the amusements of the evening. The house was crowded, not only with the taste and fashion of the whole city, but with the Governor and the most distinguished functionaries of the State.

The last scene of the pantomime was on, when, on changing the scene of a ball-room to a street, they drew up a chandelier, without having extinguished the lights, and unobserved they set fire to the scenery above. Several sparks fell on the stage, a bustle took place behind the scenes, but the audience imagined that it was a part of the play, until one of the actors, named Robinson, rushed on the stage, exclaiming, "The house is on fire!" An indescribable confusion ensued. Some jumped from the boxes on the stage, and as the fire was above, they effected their escape through the stage-door into the street. The theatre itself was constructed in the worst possible manner to guard against escape from fire. The boxes were not flush with the entrance, but were reached by a flight of steps, to the right and left; consequently the boxes were considerably elevated above the pit. When the alarm was given, instead of the spectators jumping into the pit, and very easily escaping through the main outlet into the street, they made for the stairs and for the box entrance. Unfortunately, the box door opened *inwardly*, and the crowd pressing confusedly against the doors, irretrievably closed instead of opening them. All was confusion and dismay. Shrieks from women and children were frightful; and, added to the confusion, black smoke and flames curled over the whole house, extinguishing the lights. Some raised the windows and jumped into the street—many, fearful of leaping from such a height, fell back into the flames and perished. The destruction of human life was greatest at the box doors, which being closed, they were all blocked in, and the flames consumed them. From the gallery all escaped, as there was an independent entrance, and all would have escaped, had they possessed presence of mind to have leaped into the pit.

The imagination may better paint, than the pen describe, the unutterable anguish of the gay assembly. In one moment, hilarity and joy were exchanged for the most agonizing sorrow and distress, and a multitude of precious and immortal souls, at a time they little expected, were plunged into the world of spirits. Shrieks, groans, agony, and death, in its most terrific form, closed the tragic scene!

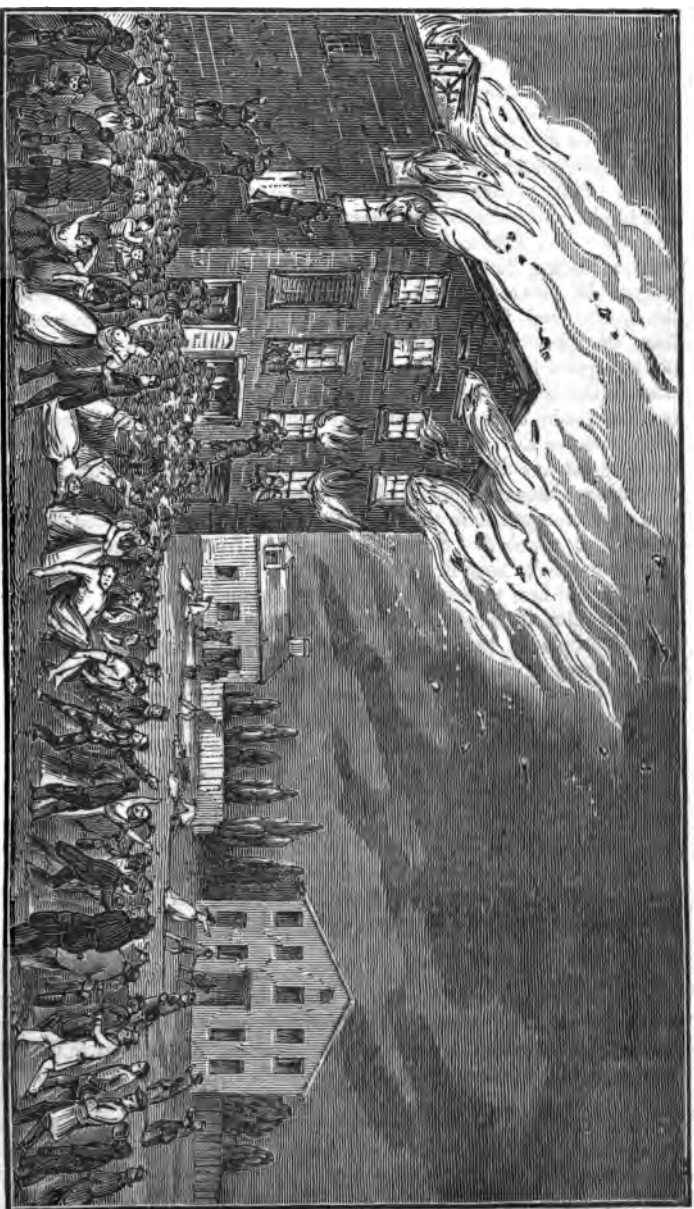
The following account, written at the time by a gentleman who was present at the Theatre on the fatal evening, will be read with the deepest interest :—

“RICHMOND, DEC. 28, 1811.

“In the whole course of our existence, we have never taken our pen under a deeper gloom than we feel at this moment. It falls to our lot to record one of the most distressing scenes which can happen in the whole circle of human affairs. The reader must excuse the incoherence of the narrative: there is scarcely a dry eye in this distracted city. Weep, my fellow citizens, for we have seen a night of wo, which scarce any eye hath seen, or ear hath heard, and no tongue can adequately tell. How can we describe the scene! No pen can paint it; no imagination can conceive it. A whole theatre wrapt in flames—a gay and animated assembly suddenly thrown on the very verge of the grave—many of them, oh! how many, precipitated into eternity—youth and beauty, old age and genius, overwhelmed in one promiscuous ruin! Shrieks, groans and human agony in every shape—this is the heart-rending scene that we are called upon to describe. We sink under the effort. Reader, excuse our feelings, for they are the feelings of a whole city.

“Let us collect our ideas as well as we can. On Thursday night a new play and a new afterpiece were played for the benefit of Mr. Placide. Crowds swarmed to the theatre; it was the fullest house this season. There were not less than six hundred present. The play went off—the pantomime began—the first act was over. The whole scene was before us, and all around us was mirth and festivity. O God! what a horrible revolution did one minute produce! The curtain rose on the second act of the pantomime; the orchestra was in full chorus; and Mr. West came on to open the scene, when sparks of fire began to fall on the back part of the stage, and Mr. Robertson came out in unutterable distress, waved his hand to the ceiling, and uttered these appalling words—*The house is on fire!* His hand was immediately stretched forth to the persons in the stage box, to help them on the stage, and aid their retreat in that direction. This is all that we caught of the stage. The cry of *Fire! Fire!* passed with electric velocity through the house. Every one flew from their seats to gain the lobbies and stairs.

“The scene baffles all description. The most heart-piercing cries pervaded the house. ‘Save me—save me!’ Wives asking for their husbands, females and children shrieking, while the gathering element came rolling on its curling flames and columns of smoke, threatening to devour every human being in the building. Many were trod under foot; several were thrown back from the windows from which they were struggling to leap. The stairways were immediately blocked up. The



Burning of the Richmond Theatre on the night of Dec. 26, 1811.

throng was so great, that many were raised several feet over the heads of the rest. The smoke threatened an instant suffocation. We cannot dwell on this picture. We saw—we felt it; like others, we gave up ourselves for lost. We cannot depict it. Many leaped from the windows of the first story, and were saved. Children and females, and men of all descriptions, were seen to precipitate themselves on the ground below. Most of these escaped, though several of them with broken legs and thighs, and hideous contusions. Most, if not all who were in the pit escaped. Mr. Taylor, the last of the musicians who quitted the orchestra, finding his retreat by the back way cut off, leaped into the pit, whence he entered the semi-circular avenue which leads to the door of the theatre, and found it nearly empty. He was the last that escaped from the pit. How melancholy that many who were in the boxes did not also jump into the pit and fly in the same direction. But those who were in the boxes, above and below, pushed for the lobbies. Many, as has been said, escaped through the windows, but most of them had no other resource than to descend the stairs, and many escaped in that way, but so great was the pressure that they retarded each other, until the devouring element approached to sweep them into eternity. Several who even emerged from the building, were so much scorched that they have since perished. Some even jumped from the second window; some others have been dreadfully burnt.

“The fire flew with rapidity, almost beyond example. Within ten minutes after it caught, the whole house was wrapt in flames. The colored people in the gallery chiefly escaped through the stairs cut off from the rest of the house. Some have no doubt fallen victims. The pit and boxes had but one common avenue, through which the whole crowd escaped, save those only who leaped through the windows.

“But the scene which ensued, it is impossible to paint. Women with dishevelled hair; fathers and mothers shrieking out for their children, husbands for their wives, brothers for their sisters, filled the whole area on the outside of the building. A few who had escaped, plunged again into the flames, to save some dear object of their regard—and they perished. The governor perhaps shared this melancholy fate. Others were frantic, and would have rushed to destruction, but for the hand of a friend. The bells tolled. Almost the whole town rushed to the fatal spot.

“The flame must have been caught to the scenery from some light behind. Robertson saw it when it was no longer than his arm. Young saw it on the roof when it first burst through. Every article of the theatre was consumed, as well as the dwelling house next to it. But what is wealth in comparison to the valuable lives which have gone forever? The whole town is shrouded in wo. Heads of families extinguished forever. Many and many is the house in which a chasm has been made which never can be filled up. We cannot dwell on this picture; but look at the catalogue of the victims, and then conceive the calamity which has fallen upon us. We must drop the pen.”

In consequence of this terrible event, a meeting of the Common Council of Richmond was held the next day, at which four gentlemen were appointed a committee to cause to be collected and distributed in urns, coffins, or other suitable enclosures, the remains of the persons who suffered, which might not be claimed by relatives, and the same to be interred with all proper respect and solemnity, giving notice to the citizens of Richmond and Manchester of the time at which it would take place; and to have further authority to erect over said remains such tomb or tombs as they might approve of, with such inscription as to them shall appear best calculated to record the melancholy and affecting catastrophe.

The Council also recommended an entire suspension of all kinds of business for forty-eight hours, and ordained that for four months thereafter, no public show or spectacle, or open dancing assembly, should be exhibited or held in the city, under the penalty of six dollars and fifty-six cents for every hour the same shall be exhibited.

A very numerous meeting of the citizens of Richmond was held at the Capitol the same day, the mayor in the chair, at which a committee was appointed to collect information of the names and number of persons who perished. They recommended the Wednesday following as a day of humiliation and prayer—that the citizens of Richmond should wear crape for one month; and named several gentlemen as a committee to receive private contributions in aid of the committee appointed by the Common Council to erect a Monument.

The number of lives lost on this lamentable occasion was about SEVENTY. The following is a list of the unhappy victims, taken from the gazettes published at the time, and corrected from information received of sundry people at Richmond.

From Monroe ward, Mrs. Taylor Braxton, Mrs. Elizabeth Page, Mrs. Jerrod, Mr. James Waldon, Miss Elliot, of New Kent, Mrs. Joseph Gallego, Miss Sarah Conyers, James Gibbons, Esq., Lieutenant in the Navy of the United States, Mrs. Thomas Wilson, Miss Maria Nelson, Miss Mary Page, Mrs. Laforest, and Mr. Almerine Marshall, of Wythe county, Miss Elvira Coutts, Mrs. Pickit, Miss Littlepage, Mr. Jean Baptiste Rozier, Mr. Thomas Lecroix, and Robert Ferrill a mulatto boy.

From Jefferson ward, his Excellency George W. Smith, governor of Virginia, Miss Sophia Trouin and Miss Cecilia Trouin, sisters, Joseph Jacobs, and his daughter Miss Elizabeth Jacobs, Mr. Cyprian Marks, Mrs. Marks, the wife of Mr. Mordecai Marks, Miss Charlotte Raphael, daughter of Mr. Solomon Raphael, Miss Adaline Bausman, Miss Ann Craig, Mr. Nutting, a carpenter, Pleasant, a mulatto woman, and Nancy Patterson, a woman of color.

From Madison ward, Abraham B. Venable, Esq., president of the Virginia Bank, William Southgate, son of Mr. Wright Southgate, Benjamin Botts, Esq., an eminent attorney, and his wife, Miss Arianna

Hunter, Miss Mary Whitlock, Miss Juliana Harvie, Mrs. Sarah Heron, Mrs. Girardin and her child, Mrs. Robert Greenhow, Mrs. Moss, child of Mr. Baruch Judah, Mrs. Lesslie, Edward Wanton, a youth, George Dixon, a youth, Mr. William Brown, Mrs. Elizabeth Pattison, Mr. John Welch, a stranger, lately from England, nephew of Sir A. Pigott, Miss Margaret Copland, Miss Margaret Anderson, Miss Sarah Gatewood, Miss Mary Clay, whose father was then a member of Congress, Miss Lucy Gawthmey, Miss Louisa Mayo, an orphan, Mrs. Gerard, Mrs. Eleanor Gibbons, Miss Ann Green, Miss Mary Davis, Thomas Frazier, a youth, Miss Jane Wade a young woman, Mrs. William Cook and her daughter, Miss Elizabeth Stevenson, Mrs. Convert and her child, Miss Martha Griffin, Fanny Goff, a woman of color, Betsey Johnson, a free woman of color, and Philadelphia, a man of color

PARTICULARS OF LOSS OF LIFE AND REMARKABLE ESCAPES.

It is painful to touch upon the fate of those gone forever. Their ashes are in the grave—but their memories are entombed in our hearts.

The generous and worthy Gov. Smith, who but a few days since was crowned with one of the highest honors which Virginia can bestow, is snatched from his country, his distracted family, his children and his friends. It is not certainly known whether he had effected his escape from the building, and rushed again into the flames to save his child. There is a confusion in the story, and perhaps it is as well if it never were cleared up.

Abraham B. Venable, the President of the Bank of Virginia, a man who has filled our public stations with very high repute, who has been in the House of Representatives and in the Senate of the United States during the most interesting periods—he too is gone! He has left no wife or children, but a long train of relatives and friends to weep his loss. He was in the box with ladies; he begged them not to be precipitate; but he was at length driven toward a window in the lobby, with a crowd of others. The suffocating smoke came rolling on. Mr. V. and some who were with him were thrown down. Mr. Noland fell towards the window, and was saved; Mr. V. fell the other way, and perished in the smoke.

Many doubtless perished in the same way. The volume of smoke, which could not at first escape through the roof, was bent downwards. Many were suffocated by it, who might have had strength enough to leap the windows.

Poor Botts! a man of astonishing assiduity and attainments at the bar, has perished, with his wife and her niece. He fell, perhaps, a victim to his hopes. He thought it more prudent to sit still with his wife, while the crowd passed by; but her sister-in-law, Mrs. Page, yielding to the sympathetic impulse of her fears, rushed forward and was saved. What a seal hath death set upon his family! At one fell swoop, five helpless children converted into orphans!

Lieut. James Gibbons, of the United States Navy, has gone with the rest! Young as he was, he had tasted of the cup of affliction. He was

taken captive in the Philadelphia, and immured in the prisons of Tripoli. On this fatal night, he and Mr. John Lynch were in the same box with Mrs. Gallego, Miss Conyers, Mr. Venable, and others. When the alarm was first given, they endeavored to quiet the apprehensions of the ladies; but when the front scene was in flames, they reached over for Miss Conyers, who had sunk down motionless. They took her up, and held her between them, in a state of insensibility, her head falling over Mr. Lynch's left arm. In this manner they proceeded towards the head of the stairs, when Gibbons said—"Lynch, leave Sally to me. I am strong enough to carry her; she is light; and you can save somebody else." Mr. L. replied—"God bless you, Gibbons, there is the stairs," and then turned round to seek some of the other ladies. Poor Gibbons and his lovely and interesting companion sunk together.

These perished amid the flames—but Mrs. Patterson and Mr. Wm. Brown were overwhelmed by the crowd.

Let us change the scene. It is a far more grateful task to describe the fate of those who have, as it were, miraculously escaped.

Mr. John G. Jackson was overcome by the suffocating smoke, and fell senseless. His last recollection was that his feet were descending; but whether the floor or stairway had broken, or he had reached the descent, he was not conscious; but insensibly he descended to the level of the pit, where a strong current of fresh air revived him, as he lay among a heap of prostrate persons. He struggled to rise, and soon found himself on his feet, with a lady clinging to him, and beseeching him to save her. With difficulty he found the door, not being acquainted with the house; but at last he emerged with the lady, when the fire was pouring through the front windows; and ere they had advanced far, the roof tumbled in.

Mr. M. W. Hancock carried with him to the play his niece, the two Miss Herons, and three boys. When the alarm was given, he did all in his power to save those under his charge—but was at last separated from them all. The flames were approaching with a degree of fury and rapidity that was perhaps never exceeded. Hitherto the scene had been all bustle and consternation; it now changed to one of awful horror and desperation, that beggars all description. He attempted to reach the centre window in the lobby of the lower boxes. He at last succeeded in mounting on the head of the crowd betwixt him and the window, and finally reached it, surrounded by the unavailing and afflicting cries of those suffocating around him. He stepped within the window, and with difficulty raised the lower sash. He then thrust his feet out, when the sash was suddenly pressed down, and caught his feet betwixt it and the sill. He extricated one foot, but could not the other, as those behind him who had sufficient strength left, mounted over him and kept him down. He found himself so far gone from suffocation, that he gave himself up as lost. The flames however rushed over his head, and the introduction of fresh air at the bottom of the window gave him new life. Those behind him being no longer able to keep him down, he with a last effort raised the sash, extricated his foot, and jumped out. It gives us

sincere pleasure to add, that the three boys and girls whom he carried with him, have all escaped with their lives.

Mr. John Lynch was the only person who escaped from the windows after Mr. Hancock. After he left poor Gibbons, he met with a variety of horrid adventures. All was utter darkness in the lobby, and suffocation threatened. It was an awful crisis; and had not one of the windows been burst open and let in fresh air, he thinks all in the lobby must have perished. At length he reached the window, where he found a gentleman fixed fast, whom he since believes to have been Mr. Hancock. The flames were rushing on in all directions; his hair and clothes caught fire, and hope deserted him. He was struck with horror at the idea of being burnt alive. He rushed toward the window, waving his hands as quick as possible over his head and clothes, to check the fire. He saw many drop down on each side of him from suffocation. The window was now free, and he was scarcely on the bottom of it, when he heard the awful crash of the falling roof behind him. He threw himself out, and was thus preserved.

Mr. Robert Greenhow precipitated himself down the stairs, over fire-brands and bodies, with his son in his arms, and was saved.

Mr. Head Lynch made a wonderful escape with his child. His lady was saved by a strong man's pulling her by the hair of her head over the bodies in the stairway.

Mr. Stetson fell in the lobby with his head to the wall, and would have died of suffocation, had not his mouth accidentally come in contact with a crack in the building. The fresh air that streamed through it revived him enough to raise his head to the window. Here a fresh draught of it revived him still more, and he jumped out.

Mr. Gordon was saved in a state of insensibility. His lady was saved by clinging to a man and jumping out of a window; and a little daughter of hers escaped by hanging to her mantle. They had three children there, and not one of them was lost.

The following letter from a gentleman in Richmond to Mr. Clay, a representative in Congress from Virginia, informing him of the loss of his daughter, gives an impressive account of the dreadful catastrophe.

RICHMOND, DEC. 27, 1811.

SIR:—I have a tale of horror to tell—prepare to hear of the most awful calamity that ever plunged a whole city into affliction. Yes, all Richmond is in tears. Children have lost their parents, parents have lost their children. Yesterday, a beloved daughter gladdened my heart with her innocent smiles; to-day, she is in heaven! God gave her to me, and God—yes, it has pleased Almighty God to take her from me. Oh, sir, feel for me, and not for me only. Arm yourself with fortitude, while I discharge the mournful duty of telling you that you have to feel also for yourself. Yes, for it must be told, you also were the father of an amiable daughter, now, like my beloved child, gone to join her mother in heaven.

How can words represent what one night, one hour, of unutterable horror has done to overwhelm a hundred families with grief and despair. No, sir, impossible. My eyes beheld last night what no tongue, no pen can describe—horrors that language has no terms to represent.

Last night we were all at the theatre. Every family in Richmond, or at least, a very large proportion of them, were there. The house was uncommonly full—when, dreadful to relate, the scenery took fire, spread rapidly above, ascending in volumes of flame and smoke into the upper part of the building, whence a moment after it descended to force a passage through the pit and boxes. In two minutes the whole audience were enveloped in hot scorching smoke and flame.

The lights were all extinguished by the black and smothering vapor; cries, shrieks, confusion and despair succeeded. A moment of inexpressible horror! Nothing I can say can paint the awful, shocking, maddening scene. The images of both my dear children were before me, but I was removed by an impassable crowd from the dear sufferers. The youngest (with gratitude to Heaven I write it) sprang towards the voice of her father, reached my assisting hand, and was extricated from the overwhelming mass that soon choked the passage by the stairs. But no efforts could avail me to reach, or even gain sight of the other; and my dear, dear Margaret, and your sweet Mary, with her companions, Miss Gwathmey and Miss Gatewood, passed together and at once into a happier world. Judge my feelings by your own, when I found that neither they nor my beloved sister appeared upon the stairs. First one, and then another, and another, I helped down, hoping every moment to seize the hand of my dear child—but no, no, I was not destined to have that happiness. Oh! to see so many amiable, helpless females trying to stretch to me their imploring hands, crying—“Save me, sir! oh, sir, save *me*! save *ME*!” O God! eternity cannot banish that spectacle of horror from my recollection. Some friendly unknown hand dragged me from the scene of flame and death; and on gaining the open air, to my infinite consolation, I found my sister had thrown herself from the upper window and was saved—yes, thanks be to God, saved, where fifty others, in a similar attempt, broke their necks or were crushed to death by those who fell on them from the same height.

Oh, sir, you can have no idea of the general consternation—the universal grief that pervades this city—but why do I speak of that? I scarcely know what I write to you. Farewell. In haste and in deep affliction.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF INVESTIGATION.

We, the committee appointed by our fellow citizens, “to inquire into the causes of the melancholy catastrophe which took place in this city on Thursday night last—a catastrophe which has spread a gloom over a whole city, and filled every eye with tears—have given to this melancholy duty all the attention in our power. We feel it due to ourselves, it was due to our weeping fellow citizens, it was due to the world, to

collect all the lights which might serve to elucidate an event whose effects are so deeply written in our hearts. We have seen every person who was behind the scenes, that was best able to assist our inquiries ; we have heard their statements, and after sifting them as accurately as possible, beg leave to submit the following report to our afflicted citizens.

On the night of Thursday last, the pantomime of "The Bleeding Nun, or Agnes and Raymond," came on for representation after the play was over. In the first act, amongst other scenes, was the scene of the cottage of Baptist the robber, which was illuminated by a chandelier apparently hanging from the ceiling. When the curtain fell on the first act, and before it rose on the second, this chandelier was lifted from its position among the scenery above. It was fixed with two wicks to it ; one only of them had been lit ; yet when it was lifted above, *this fatal lamp was not extinguished*. Here is the first link in the chain of our disasters. The man who raised it does not pretend to deny it—but pleads that he did so in consequence of an order from some person whom he supposed authorized to direct him. That person was behind him ; the voice had reached him without his seeing the person, and he does not pretend positively to recognize him. We have not the most distant idea that there was the slightest mischievous intention in the order or in the act ; it was inattention ; it was the grossest negligence. The lifter of the lamps says that he was aware of the danger, and remonstrated against the act ; yet yielded with too fatal a facility to the reiterated orders of a person whom he saw not, but supposed authorized to direct him. We cast not the slightest imputations upon the managers or on any of the regular comedians of the stage ; their positions at the moment, as well as other circumstances, forbid the idea that the order ever passed from their lips ; yet the act was done. The lighted lamp was lifted ; the torch of destruction gleamed at the top of the stage.

Mr. Rice (the property-man of the theatre) says that he saw the scene was over in which the lamp was used ; he saw the lamp after it was lifted up ; he was aware of the danger of its remaining in that position, and spoke to one of the carpenters three times repeatedly, "Lower that lamp and blow it out." He did not see it put out, for he was drawn by his business to another part of the stage.

Mr. West declares that he was passing by to commence the second act of the pantomime, and saw the lamp up, and heard Rice giving directions to the carpenter to extinguish it.

Mr. Cook (the regular carpenter of the theatre) declares that he saw the carpenter alluded to above, attempting to let down the lamp immediately after the order to let it down had been given ; that he has no doubt this attempt was made in consequence of the order ; and he saw the cords tangle and the lamp oscillate several inches from its perpendicular position. The chandelier above was moved by two cords, which worked over two pulleys, inserted in a collar-beam of the roof, and the straight line from the beam to the lamp was, Mr. Cook thinks, about fourteen or fifteen feet. Thus some idea may be had of the degree of oscillation.

Mr. Anderson (one of the performers of the theatre) says that he had remarked, even before the representation, how unskilfully the chandelier had played ; and that an attempt to move it had caused it to ride circularly round.

Mr. Yore (another of the workmen of the machinery) most conclusively confirms this statement. He saw, that in the attempt to lower the lamp, as it was perched among the scenery, the carpenter had failed in his effort ; that he then jirked it and jostled it ; that it was thus swerved from its perpendicular attitude, and brought into contact with the lower part of the front scenes. The scene took fire ; the flame rose, and tapering above it to a point, must have reached the roof, which was elevated six or seven feet above the top of the scene.

We were assured that there was not one *transparent* scene hanging ; that is, a scene coated with varnish, and extremely combustible ; that there was only one *paper* scene hanging, which Mr. Utt, the prompter, declares was removed six or eight feet behind the lamp. Thirty-five scenes were at that moment hanging, exclusive of the flies or narrow borders which represent the skies, roofs, &c. ; and of these, thirty-four were canvass paintings, which, though not extremely combustible on the painted side, are on the other so well covered with the fibres of the hemp as to catch the flame.

Efforts were made to extinguish the flame. Mr. Cook, the carpenter, ascended into the carpenter's gallery ; but in vain. He *did* succeed in letting down some of the scenes upon the floor, under an idea that this was the surest means of extinguishing the flame ; but he could not extinguish the cords of the scene that was then on fire. The roof soon caught, and the sense of danger compelled him to fly for his life.

The committee must now be under the necessity of drawing the attention of their fellow citizens to the events which took place in front of the curtain. Mr. West states, that immediately on his entering the stage to go on with his part, he heard some bustle behind the scenes, which he conceived to be a mere fracas. The cry of *Fire* then saluted his ears, which gave him no serious apprehensions, as he knew that little accidents of this description had often taken place ; that he heard some voices exclaim—"Don't be alarmed !" which exclamation he repeated, through a solicitude to prevent hurry and confusion ; that he had not at that moment seen any flakes of fire fall from the scene ; but seeing them at length falling from the roof, he retired behind the scene, and found the whole enveloped in flames ; that he attempted to pull down some of the hanging pieces, but finding it unavailing, he attempted to make good his own retreat.

Mr. Robertson, who was the only performer besides that came before the audience, assured the committee, that at the moment when he first discovered the flame, it was not longer than his handkerchief ; that he repaired immediately to the stage, as near the orchestra as he could come ; there he conveyed to the audience, not wishing to alarm them, by gesticulation, to leave the house ; that in the act of doing that, he discovered the flames moving rapidly, and then he exclaimed—"The house

(or the theatre) is on fire!" that he went directly to the stage box where some three or four ladies were sitting, entreated them to jump into his arms; that he could save them by conveying them through the private stage door; and that he still entreated, until he found it necessary to make his own escape; that his own retreat by the private door was intercepted by the flames; that he found it necessary to leap into the stage box and join the general crowd in the lobby; that he gained one of the front windows, assisted in passing out some ten or twelve females, but at last found it necessary to throw himself from the window.

This narrative is due to the exertions of a gentleman who first sounded the alarm, and to whom there are a few who have not done that justice which he deserves. Let us now return to the transmission of the fire, where the point of the flame reached the roof. The roof was unfortunately not plastered and ceiled—there was a sheathing of plank, pine plank we are told, nailed over the rafters, and over these the shingles. The rosin of the pine had perhaps oozed out of the plank, through the heat of our summer's sun, and stood in drops upon it. Yet however these may have been, no sooner did the spire of the flames reach the roof than it caught.

The fire spread with a rapidity through this combustible material, unparalleled, certainly never equalled by any of the too numerous fires which have desolated our city. In four or five minutes at most, the whole roof was one sheet of flame—it burst through the bull's eye in front—it sought the windows where the rarified vapor sought its passage; fed by the vast column of air in the hollows of a theatre, fed by the inflammable pannels and pillars of the boxes, by the dome of the pit, by the canvass ceiling of the lower boxes, until its suffocated victims in the front were wrapt in its devouring flame, or pressed to death under the smouldering ruins of the building.

Here might we pause in our melancholy task. We have traced the conflagration to the fatal lamp, lifted as it was lit, then jirked and jostled out of its perpendicular position, to the scenery—to the roof, until every thing was enveloped in its fury. But there is one part of the subject which, though it does not fall strictly within the letter of the Resolution, or perhaps the line of our duty, is yet too interesting to be passed over. Why this fatality? Why have *so many* victims perished on this melancholy occasion? It cannot be said, that it was the combustibility of the building and the rapidity of the fire, great as they undoubtedly were, which altogether produced this mortality of the species; for we cannot believe, if large vomitories had been erected for the passage of the crowd, if there had been doors enough to admit them, that more than *one-tenth* of an audience should have perished on the occasion.

It was the opinion of the committee that the ill construction of the theatre itself, was principally its cause. How numerous were the occasions on which it had long before been said, as the crowd was slowly retiring at the end of a play—"Suppose the house were on fire, what should we do!" Yet we slept with too fatal a security over the evil—we trusted, and we are ruined. New doors were not opened; the

winding staircase was not straightened, the access to the avenues of the theatre was not enlarged.

Even the relics of our fellow citizens as they lay, pointed out the causes of this fatality. They were found strewed in heaps at the foot of the narrow staircase which led from the boxes ; and, though with less profusion, on the ground immediately under the lobby of the boxes above, from which lobby their retreat down the stairs had been intercepted by the crowd which choked them up. On that fatal night, there were in the pit and boxes 518 dollar tickets and 80 children, exclusive of 50 persons who were in the galleries. Of these, 598 had to pass through one common avenue ; and although all the spectators in the pit may have escaped, except a few who may have jumped into the boxes, yet the crowd in the lower and upper boxes had no other resource than to press through a narrow angular stair case, or to leap the windows.

The committee cannot close their melancholy labors without expressing one hope, that, irreparable as our own calamities have been, we may not have suffered altogether in vain ; that our own misfortunes may serve as beacons to the rest of our countrymen, and that no theatre should be permitted to be opened in the other cities of the United States until every facility has been procured for the escape of the audience.

BURIAL OF THE DEAD.

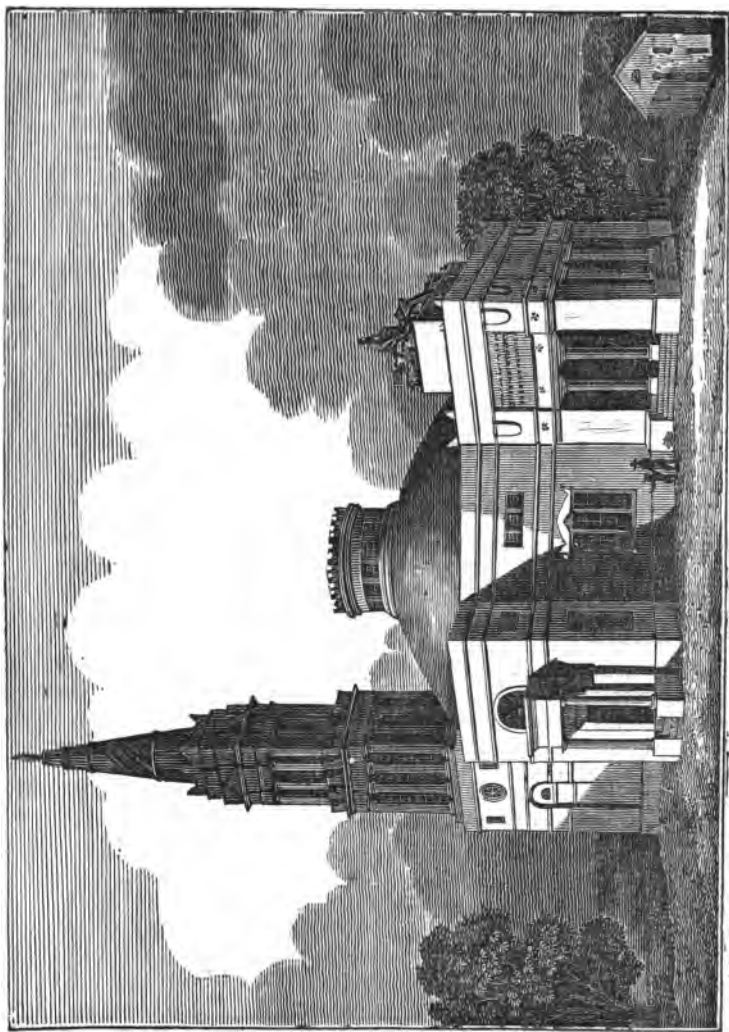
Pursuant to an ordinance of the Common Council of the city of Richmond, the place of burying the remains of those who suffered by the fire was changed from the public burial ground to the area formerly enclosed within the walls of the theatre, which was ordered to be enclosed by a wall five feet high.

The interment took place on the Sabbath succeeding the fire, and a large and mournful procession was made to the devoted spot. The mangled remains were chiefly enclosed in two large mahogany boxes, and were deposited in the place where the pit stood. The city was bathed in tears.

MONUMENT IN COMMEMORATION OF THE EVENT.

On the spot where the Theatre formerly stood, the Monument Church was erected in 1813. It is an elegant edifice, of an octagon form—Isaac Sturtevant, of Boston, was the master builder. The steeple, on the north-easterly side, is 130 feet high. On the north-westerly side of the church, and adjoining it, is the monument, the foundation of which occupies thirty-six feet square, within the walls of which is engraved the following inscription :

In memory of the awful calamity, that, by the providence of God, fell on this city, on the night of the 26th of December, in the year of Christ, 1811 ; when, by the sudden and dreadful conflagration of the RICHMOND THEATRE, many citizens of different ages, and of both sexes, distinguished for talents and for virtues, respected and beloved, perished in the flames ; and, in one short moment, public joy and private hap-



The Monument Church, Richmond. (Adjoining the Church on the right is the Monument.)

piness were changed into universal lamentation ; this monument is erected, and the adjoining church dedicated to the worship of Almighty God, that, in all future times, the remembrance of this mournful event, on the spot where it happened, and where the remains of the sufferers are deposited, in one urn, may be united with acts of penitence and devotion.

Many who escaped with their lives were much scorched in the flames, some were killed, and others were greatly injured by throwing themselves from the windows, or by being trampled under foot in the attempt to escape with the crowd. Mrs. John Bosher, and Edward James Harvie, Esq., expired soon after the dreadful catastrophe. Some were made cripples, a considerable number soon dropped into the grave, and others languished under the weight of disease, in consequence of injury sustained at the time of the melancholy event.

Conflagration of 439 Buildings at Albany, N. Y., August 17, 1848, attended with loss of Life.



On the 17th of August, 1848, a fire broke out in Albany, N. Y., in a stable in the rear of the Albion Hotel, corner of Broadway and Herkimer street, which threatened to desolate the city. The wind was a gale from the south, the heat of the weather and the fire intense, and every thing dry and combustible. In an inconceivably short time, the fire spread over a wide surface, prostrating every thing before it. The efforts of the Firemen, aided by their gallant brethren of the Troy, West Troy, Greenbush, Arsenal and Schenectady companies, were directed as well as they could be under such appalling circumstances, but they were for a long time powerless against such an amazing force of flame, of raging wind, and the fierce heat of the wide-spreading and all-consuming element.

The fire commenced about noon, and was not arrested till after five in the afternoon ; and only then by a providential change of wind, which threw the current of flame back upon its vast track of devastation, followed by a heavy and drenching rain. This alone preserved to the city all the business and commercial portion of it that escaped.

By this extensive conflagration *four hundred and thirty-nine* buildings were destroyed, but what is still more appalling, is the loss of life. Several persons died from injuries received at the fire, and others were missing, who no doubt fell victims. The following particulars are by an Albany gentleman, who was present at the fire :—

“The area of the fire embraces perhaps two hundred acres of the most compact and valuable part of the city. It includes at least

twenty squares. Amidst the ruins which every where meet the eye, it is difficult to trace the outlines of the former state of things ; but those familiar with the city, will perceive the extent of this most calamitous visitation by a few generalities.

" Broadway, from the intersection of Herkimer to the south corner of Hudson street, on the west side, and to Van Schaack's variety store on the east side, nearly half a mile, is, with all the structures and stores, including the Eagle Tavern, the Townsend House, and the United States Hotel, level with the earth. From Broadway to the river, including the ranges of lofty stores on Quay street, throughout nearly the entire space above mentioned, all is a heap of ruins. All the cross streets entering Broadway, Herkimer, Bleecker, Lydius, Hamilton, Division and Hudson, west as far as Union and Dallius streets, are swept away. Amazing effort preserved Goold's great carriage and coach establishment; every thing on the surrounding streets being demolished. North, the flying cinders, with which the air was filled, caught the Columbia Street Market, and of that large structure nothing remains. The adjacent buildings were saved by the prompt efforts of the two Schenectady fire companies.

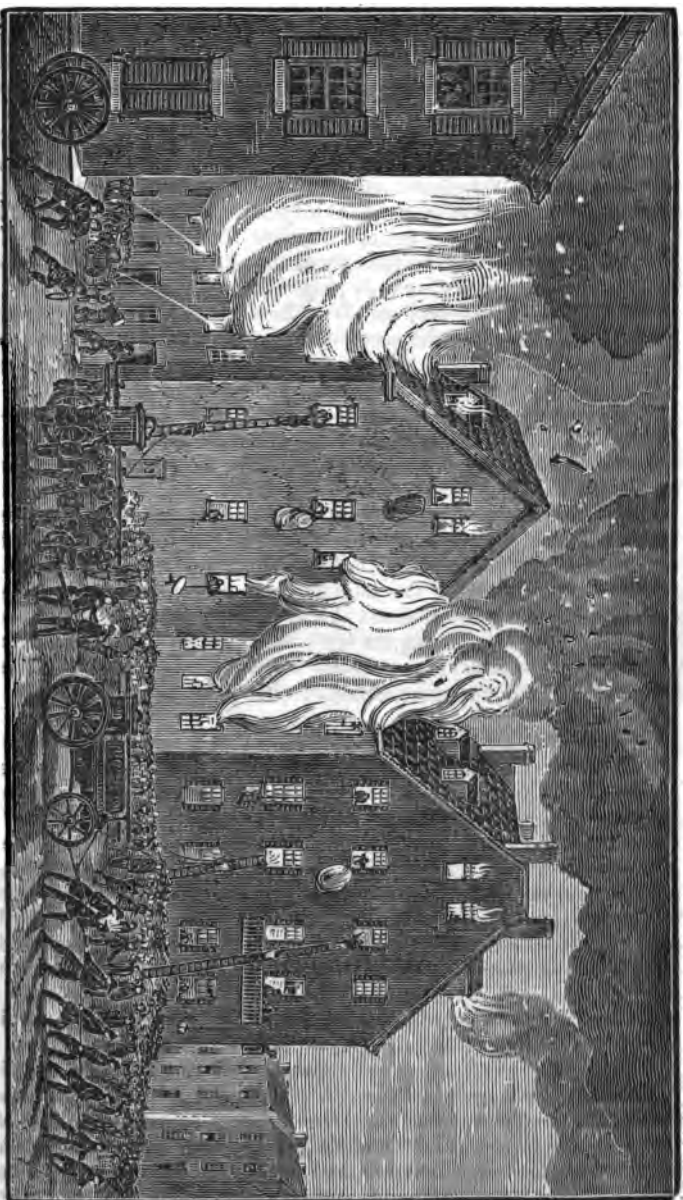
" But the scene of the most striking and absolute desolation is the pier. Scarcely a vestige of it remains. Throughout its entire length, from Hamilton street to the cut opposite the Boston depot, it is utterly consumed, including the wharves, warehouses, nearly all the shipping in the basin and outside pier, tow boats, barges, canal boats, huge floating warehouse arks, with all their valuable and vast contents of goods and products, the three bridges at Columbia, State and Hamilton streets, lumber yards, flour stores, in short, every thing that floated or teemed with life and value in that great mart the morning before.

" The scene in State street beggars all description. Thousands, flying from the conflagration, pressed every conceivable vehicle into their service, depositing goods, furniture, families, children, every thing animate and inanimate. Every point in that wide street—at the Exchange, at the City Bank, at the corners of all the intersecting streets, in front of St. Peter's Church, all the Parks, and finally, at the State Hall and City Hall—were crowded with bales, boxes, furniture, goods of every description, &c. No point was deemed too remote from the devouring element. The stores every where were closed, or were only opened to the flying citizens and their effects.

" Two buildings were blown up in hopes of arresting the progress of the fire ; one belonging to Mr. J. I. Boyd, in Broadway, and the other to Mr. John Knower, corner of Hudson and Liberty streets ; but with little effect.

" Among the shipping destroyed was the schr. Cotuit, of Boston, just arrived, and the schr. Elias Matilda, also of Boston, seriously damaged. Some twenty vessels, below the basin, were hastily drawn out into the river and preserved. The Isaac Newton and Rip Van Winkle steamers were also rescued with difficulty.

" The conflagration of the Pier, so utterly sweeping, was as rapid as



Conflagration at Albany, N. Y., August 17, 1848.

it was unexpected. It was supposed to be safe, owing to the intervening basin. Its only danger was from the flying cinders; and every store had its look-out and buckets. When all danger was supposed to have passed, a spark caught under a clapboard, on the east or river side of the Pier, and in a few moments the flames were beyond all control, and throughout the entire length of the Pier, such was the rush of the flames, that many of the merchants, cut off from escape from the basin side, abandoning all hopes of property, hastily threw their books and valuable papers into boats, and put out into the river.

"The roofs every where throughout the city, were thronged with occupants, anxiously guarding their property from the falling cinders.

"Nearly the entire Troy and West Troy Fire Departments were on the ground. Their aid was promptly and most efficiently rendered. In the evening they tendered, through telegraph, the aid of three additional companies, which came down and served as a relief guard.

"All business was suspended, all places of amusement closed—in short, the aspect in all directions bespoke the desolation which pervades the city. One of our oldest residents, familiar with the fire department, estimates the loss by fire here, since March last, as exceeding the entire loss for the previous forty-one years. This conflagration, in broad day, altogether surpasses, in every form of loss, any with which the city has ever been visited. Stanwix Hall and City Hotel were several times on fire.

"The suffering among the inhabitants is severe, and many demand the sympathy, commiseration and charity of those who are so fortunate as not to have been among the immediate sufferers. Many in affluent circumstances yesterday, are ruined. Thousands are houseless. Destitute families and numerous children, without shelter or bread, are all around us."

Three forwarding lines had property under their charge to the amount of \$150,000, all consumed. The quantity of flour destroyed has been estimated at eighteen thousand barrels, mostly on the piers, where not a dollar in property was saved.

Among those who lost their lives in consequence of this fire were a man named William Johnson, who was burned at 31 Liberty street, and also his daughter, who died soon after; Mrs. Johnson was badly burned. A fireman named Daniel Harlikly, died from exhaustion, caused by his generous efforts in saving other people's property. Mr. Fisher was badly hurt from a bedstead falling on him. A Mr. Stern was taken up, after falling from a roof corner of Hamilton and Liberty streets, so badly injured that it was thought he could not recover. Mrs. Moore, in Lydius street, was dreadfully hurt. A man in Hudson street was killed by falling bricks. In Church street a woman was so shockingly hurt that it was thought she could not recover. William Smith, keeper of a public house, corner of Hamilton and Liberty streets, supposes the death of a man in his house, from the fact of his leaving him in the building when it fell in. His name was unknown, he being an emigrant recently arrived.

This lamentable and extensive conflagration is said to have been caused in the following singular manner. A woman, while washing, had her

sun bonnet set on fire by a spark. Without a moment's thought she threw it, she knew not where. Unfortunately, it alighted in the stable of William Johnson, which, in a moment almost, was enveloped in flames.

The following are some of the particulars of the loss of property :—

On the Pier—33 buildings ; principal losers, Lay & Craft, Reed & Rawls, F. A. Durant & Co., Wadhams & Co., Goddard & Co.

In Basin—2 Boston schooners ; 5 Tow Boats belonging to Swiftsure line, and a float ; 2 Lake Boats ; 2 Barges belonging to Eagle Tow Boat line ; and several Canal Boats.

On Quay street—38 buildings, mostly three and four story brick stores.

Broadway—139 stores and dwellings, including Eagle Tavern and Townsend House, United States Hotel, Columbia Hotel.

Church street—44 buildings. Diagonal street—2 buildings. Union street—34 houses. Hamilton street—24 houses. Division street—15 houses. Hudson street—4 houses. Lydius street—30 houses. Herkimer street—3 houses. Bleecker street—13 houses. Dallius street—6 houses. Total 439.

The above list was prepared by an Albany editor, who says it may reasonably be estimated that five hundred buildings in all were consumed. The whole two hundred acres desolated by the fire were densely covered with buildings. Four-fifths of the buildings burned were brick—most of them large and substantial, and many of three or four stories in height. The Journal estimated the loss at three millions of dollars, and says that all this work of destruction was accomplished in five hours. The Argus states that notwithstanding the magnitude of the loss, the insurance companies were able to meet every demand upon them. Among other companies, the Albany had insurance to the amount of \$175,000, and the Firemen's \$80,000.

The great loss by this fire, superadded to the large sums swallowed up during the previous winter and spring, by kindred calamities, impaired the fortunes of wealthy people, impoverished hundreds of the middling classes, and utterly ruined hundreds of poor hard working families.

A True Fireman.

AN incident characteristic of the noble intrepidity for which the brave Fireman is always distinguished, took place at a fire in Catharine street, New York, April 11th, 1849. The house of Mr. Ward took fire in the night, and Mr. W. directed his wife to leave the house and take the children, but in the confusion she left behind a little daughter, two years old, and the fact was not ascertained until some fifteen minutes afterwards, when Abraham Brown, a fireman, ascended a ladder, effected an entrance through the front window, and in a back room found the little girl lying on a bed. He immediately took her in his arms and rushed down stairs, through the flames and smoke, at the risk of his life, and brought the child into the street ; but it was dead. The Jury found that she came to her death by suffocation.

Phillips' Patent Fire Annihilator.



A NEW PATENT "FIRE ANNIHILATOR," as it is termed by its inventor, Mr. Phillips, has attracted great attention in London, and seems destined to be very useful in subduing and extinguishing fires. Demonstrations made at the London Gas Works, Vauxhall, in April, (1850,) appear to remove all doubts as to the practical use of the invention to check conflagrations of any magnitude. And when the fact is reflected on, that in England alone upwards of two millions of property are annually consumed by fire, and a great number of lives are lost on shore, independent of the property and lives destroyed by fire at sea, it is not surprising that an invention, which has the effect of reducing and preventing these appalling sacrifices, should excite intense interest, not only among eminent scientific men, but among all classes of the community, and that the Royal Family, government, and distinguished members of the aristocracy, desirous of promoting the safety and well being of their fellow creatures, should aid by their influence and example in bringing such an important invention into general use.

The experiments at the Gas Works were preceded by a short popular lecture on the character and attributes of Fire, and Mr. Phillips contended that streams of fire might be as easily controlled as streams of water. He explained that his improvements in the means for subduing fire are founded upon the consideration that water, being a compact body, does not act simultaneously on the surfaces of the innumerable particles of the gases which combine to produce flame, and that it is therefore inefficient in extinguishing flame, as it may be said to extinguish the fragments of destroyed property rather than to prevent the destruction of it; but gaseous vapour, being of a subtile nature, intermixes with the gases which combine to produce fire, and so intercepts their contact that their chemical union and inflammation is prevented.

Mr. Phillips referred to an extraordinary phenomenon which he witnessed some years ago. A volcanic island was thrown up in the middle of the Mediterranean sea from a depth of eighty fathoms, and the magnitude of the eruption may be imagined from the fact that the whole of the South of Europe, from Gibraltar to Stromboli, was agitated by the subterranean convulsion. The island of molten lava was formed like a crescent, presenting an open crater, into which the sea rushed like a cataract during the periodical cessation of the eruption. When the eruption re-commenced, the flood of water was again ejected from the crater to the height of many thousand feet, and when falling on the burning island the water produced no effect on the flames issuing from the ravines, but wherever the wind carried the cloud of vapour, there the flames were suddenly annihilated. This effect attracted the serious



*View of the Fire at the London Gas Works, Vauxhall, April, 1850,
extinguished by the Patent Fire Annihilator.*

attention of Mr. Phillips, who subsequently investigated the subject more closely, and having devoted many years to the study of the chemical and physical properties of fire, the present invaluable invention is the result.

Mr. Phillips then explained that, to check and stop a spreading fire or a conflagration, it is most essential to subdue the flame, which experience has proved is not easily effected by water; and when therefore streams of flames travel over inflammable materials, as in house-fires, the destruction of the building, or range of buildings, is almost inevitable if water only be employed; for the water acts only upon portions of the incandescent root of the fire, while the travelling flame is every moment taking root anew in every thing combustible within its reach.

The Fire Annihilator is therefore made to evolve an atmosphere of gases and vapor, which neutralizes the elements of combustion; and this atmosphere being thrown either into the inflammable vapor or gases issuing from the heated material, or into the air supplying the fire, or into the fire itself, at once extinguishes the active part of fire—flame. The reduction of the flame instantaneously reduces the draught of air by which the red combustion is supported; and the heated materials being enveloped in the vapors thrown out by the engine, combustion ceases, and the accumulated heat is rapidly absorbed.

The flames being subdued or extinguished, water may be employed upon the glowing embers; but the mere saturation with water of exhausted embers, while flames are encompassing unburned timbers, is in itself altogether useless, as it is the flame in particular which is to be overpowered. As fire increases by time at an immense ratio, it is of the utmost importance to have the means at hand for extinguishing a fire as soon as possible after its discovery; and the great advantage is evident which must result from the introduction of the Fire Annihilator, which is always ready for instant use. But the invention may be truly called an invaluable one, when regarded as a protection to property in the country, and against the horrors of a ship on fire during its voyage; for in the one case it is not only difficult to procure ordinary fire engines within any useful period, but when they have arrived on the spot, water can rarely be supplied in any useful quantity; and in the other case, it is well known that although the ship is surrounded by water, it is generally found impracticable to apply it to that part of the hold where the fire may be, whilst the Fire Annihilator emits a humid vapor with great expansive force, which penetrates all the interstices between the cargo, searches out and extinguishes the fire, and thus effectually saves the ship, and may preserve many human beings from a fate from which escape might otherwise be hopeless.

The vapor evolved by the Fire Annihilator likewise extinguishes burning oil, tar, spirits, gas, or other equally inflammable materials, whilst it is well known that water is almost useless in such cases, and indeed that it often increases the mischief rather than checks it, by

spreading the burning materials over a larger space, as they float and continue to burn on the surface of the water thrown into them for the purpose of extinguishing them. But although the vapor evolved by the patent engine is annihilating fire, it is innoxious to life, and even purifies an atmosphere charged with smoke. Nor does it injure the furniture or goods which have escaped the action of the fire.

The construction of the Fire Annihilator is so simple that the machine is not liable to get out of order; it can be re-charged whenever required. It is so easily managed, that any person may effectually use it with very little instruction; and the apparatus is complete in itself, without requiring a number of hands to work it, for the power of the engine, whatever may be its magnitude, is called into action by one person. When the machine is to be used, it is to be carried into the room on fire, or as near to it as circumstances will permit, and the tube or mouth of the hose inserted into the doorway or into the window, and the lever or pin by which the charge is ignited being then struck, the vapor is discharged, and the fire is immediately extinguished.

Mr. Phillips having explained the general principle and object of his invention, proceeded to demonstrate its applicability for practical purposes by a series of striking experiments, proving the inefficiency of water, and the undeniable efficacy of the vapor system in extinguishing fire. During the lecture and introductory demonstrations, Mr. Phillips stated that the audience were not expected to judge of his invention by mere experiments, which, although fully supporting his theory, might not be deemed sufficient to convince them of its practical usefulness, but that the demonstration would extend to a trial of the effect of his portable machines on a fire of such magnitude that every one present should be satisfied that the destruction of the building on fire was inevitable, if water only were to be used to extinguish it, and that he hoped to give them at the same time full confidence in the security afforded by his invention against the destructive consequences of fire. The expectations of the audience were therefore raised to a point of intense excitement, when a wooden building, three stories high, and the chambers of which contained quantities of loose planks, shavings, tar, and other combustibles, was set on fire. The fire rapidly spread through the whole house, and the wooden building being erected against the wall of a gas retort house, the flames poured out of the windows and through the roof with such violence, that the intense heat obliged the spectators to withdraw to a considerable distance.

The fire was now at its height, and the building appeared to be doomed to destruction; but two men, shielded by the vapor emitted from the portable machine which each of them carried, approached the burning house, when the fire was suddenly annihilated; and Mr. Phillips, carrying a lighted torch, and followed by several strangers, ascended the staircase and appeared at the upper windows, thus proving to the delight and satisfaction of the numerous visitors, that his asser-

tions as to the powers of his invention, both in regard to extinguishing fire and purifying an atmosphere charged with smoke, were fully borne out in practice.

The inventor, at the end of the demonstration, had the satisfaction of stating that, by command, the royal palaces have been supplied with his machines, and several distinguished naval officers were named who had declared that no ship of war or merchant vessel ought to be allowed to go to sea without these machines; and from the opinions expressed by parties high in office, it may be expected that ere long it will be made compulsory on emigrant and passenger ships to be provided with them, whilst it cannot be doubted that, as the invention becomes more generally known, a regular system of protection against conflagrations will be organized by the municipal authorities and by the public, and that by means of the Fire Annihilator, the destruction of a house by fire may become a novelty rather than a nightly occurrence, as it is at present.

Singular Fact—A House set on Fire by Water.

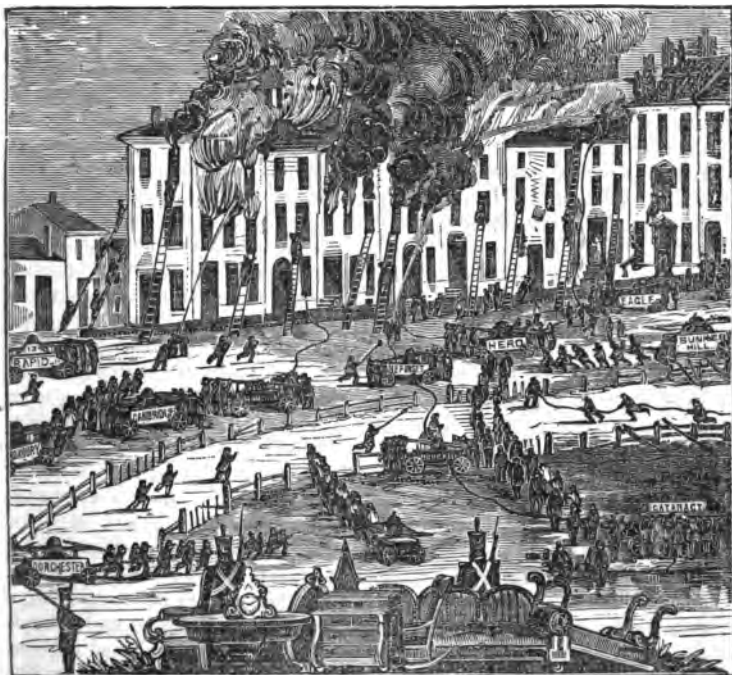
On Sunday, Jan. 24, 1847, the dwelling occupied by Mr. David Farnsworth, in East Dennis, Mass., was set on fire and narrowly escaped destruction, in consequence of a glass globe, filled with water, and containing two small fishes, having been hung against a south window. The house had been shut up two or three days, and Mr. F., on approaching, perceived smoke issuing from the chimney. Five minutes elapsed before he got in, as he had to return to his father-in-law's for the key. On entering he found one of the window curtains was burnt, and that a covered easy chair, standing by the window, was in flames. After extinguishing the fire, he ascertained the cause. The glass globe filled with water hanging where the rays of the sun fell directly upon it, formed a lens or burning glass, and a part of the curtain happening to be in the focus, was set on fire.

Repeated experiments were afterwards made with the same globe. When filled with water and exposed to the sun, paper placed in the focus was instantly ignited; but when the water was turned out, the same effect was not produced.

☞ If Mr. F.'s house had been burnt down, it would have been said that it was set on fire by an incendiary.



Destructive Fire in Beacon Street, Boston, on the 7th of July, 1824.



On Wednesday afternoon, 7th July, 1824, about 1 o'clock, a destructive fire broke out among the shavings in a carpenter's yard, in the rear of Beacon, Charles and Chesnut streets, communicated by sparks from a chimney on fire in the tavern-house in Charles street, occupied by Mr. J. A. Haven; and the weather being dry, and the wind blowing nearly a gale from the westward, all efforts to prevent its spreading, (although when first seen it was not larger than a man's hat,) were ineffectual; and it immediately extended to the workshop of Messrs. Stoddard & Lincoln, housewrights, to the contiguous fences and out-buildings, to their brick dwelling houses in Chesnut street, adjoining, and to houses on Charles and Beacon streets.

The alarm was given instantly, and the citizens and firemen with their engines assembled with alacrity; but the fury of the winds scattered the

flames in many directions so instantaneously, that six or eight dwellings and out-buildings were on fire before the inflammable materials of the shop and lumber piles were half consumed. The two brick buildings owned and occupied by Messrs. Stoddard & Lincoln, and in part tenanted by Mr. Andrew Sanborn, constable, his wife and sister, were so suddenly on fire, that many of the inmates could save but little other than the clothes they had on. The back parts of the brick block on Charles street, and the wooden parts in the rear of the lower houses on Beacon street, were also so suddenly involved in the calamity, that the furniture, goods, &c., were removed with difficulty and damage, and all hopes of saving the Charles street block of six commodious houses was abandoned; and the great efforts were made to stop its progress up Beacon street, where there were fifteen spacious brick dwellings in continuity. Seven of the houses in Beacon street were so directly in the range of the devouring element, rendered suffocating by the heat of the smoke and dust, as to prevent their near approach on the leeward and front side, that notwithstanding they were all separated by partition walls, some of them new, and others recently erected, all the exertions of the firewards and firemen to prevent their entire destruction were unavailing; although at the hazard of life, much of their furniture, &c., was thrown out and secured. The eighth house from Charles street on Beacon street, was preserved by the most intrepid and persevering exertions, and limits were put to the fire in that direction; but so complete, for nearly three hours, appeared to be the ascendancy of Fire over Water, that the spacious mansion houses extending to Spruce street, (eight in number, all having partition walls between them,) were completely emptied of their rich furniture, stores of liquors, and even fixtures—which were deposited in huge piles on the Common. The Mayor, Hon. Josiah Quincy, with a number of police officers, took active and efficient measures to preserve this property; and at his suggestion, a detachment of forty men from the New England Guards, under Capt. Loring, were promptly marched on the ground, and established a guard for its protection. They were afterwards relieved by the Independent Cadets, at sunset; the latter by the Boston Light Infantry at 11 o'clock; the Infantry by the City Guards at half past 1; at which time the Washington Light Infantry were on the ground; and at 4 o'clock the Sea Fencibles went on duty. The Cadets continued on the ground till 5 o'clock on Thursday morning.

The following houses were burnt, in addition to the shops, out-buildings and lumber first consumed.

On Chesnut street—two new brick houses, owned and occupied by Messrs. Hezekiah Stoddard and Joseph Lincoln, who also owned the carpenters' shop and lumber, &c., in the yard.

On Charles street—A block of six brick houses; one owned by Messrs. Elisha Penniman and Joseph Whitney, and occupied by Messrs. L. and T. Putnam, J. Smith, and by Bailey & Staniford, grocers. One house

owned by Mr. T. W. Sumner, occupied by Mr. D. R. Griggs. One house owned by Jona. Davis, Esq., occupied by Messrs. Huse. Two houses owned by Mr. Nathaniel Call, occupied by Mr. Wilson, Mr. Far-num, and Mr. J. Hathaway. One house belonging to Mrs. Lancaster.

On Beacon street—seven spacious brick houses. One new and nearly finished, owned by Mr. J. Bryant. One house owned and occupied by Mr. T. H. Swett. One owned and occupied by Mr. H. G. Rice. One owned by John Cotton, Esq., and occupied by Mr. T. H. Carter. One owned by Mr. William Minot. One owned by heirs of Daniel Tuttle. One owned and occupied by Mr. S. Bean.

Most of the above dwellings had commodious out-buildings, gardens, &c., which, with one or two exceptions, were destroyed. A large number of other houses were much injured.

It is but justice to the Firemen and citizens of the neighboring towns, to state that they were early on the spot, and did efficient service, as will be seen in the engraving. An engine from Brighton, arrived in the short time of thirty minutes, coming five miles. The Independence engine, situated near Neponset bridge, also came about the same distance in the same time. The towns of Roxbury, Brookline, Cambridge, Charlestown, Dorchester, &c., were well represented, as the fire was seen at a great distance. A body of marines, from the Charlestown navy yard, were also of special service on the occasion.

The flames were attacked from every assailable quarter with untiring constancy, but many of the most daring efforts were rendered ineffectual by the tornado, which seemed to have formed an alliance with the flames, and to increase in efforts as the destruction extended. The wonder is, therefore, that the flames were so much circumscribed. In almost any other part of the city, the desolation must have been more extensive. The flying flakes were carried to a long distance across the Common, and fire was set by them to several roofs nearly a third of a mile from the fire; but being well watched by the females at home, were promptly extinguished.

The fire was in part checked by the high wall of Mr. Eckley's house. When it was thought it would extend to Spruce street, arrangements were promptly made for bricking up the windows of Mr. Parker's house, on the upper side of the street, which, with the aid of wet blankets, carpets and sails, it was hoped would provide a sufficient barrier; but so high was the wind, that the woollen cloths could with difficulty be kept in their places, and several of the old sails were torn from the ropes.

The necessity of powerful engines and long hose was seriously felt, as the water had to be brought from the Western Avenue basin or the Frog Pond. There were but two suction engines, we believe, belonging to the Department at the time,—consequently there was hard service to be done in the way of passing water in buckets to the engines.

This was a fire well calculated to test the powers of the Firemen, and their heroic exertions alone prevented its spreading to the State House. No lives were lost, but several Firemen were considerably burned while battling with the flames.

A Night of Conflagrations in the City of New York, Nov. 18th, 1848.



arduous nature of the duties of City Firemen is shown by the following account of the scenes of one night, in the city of New York, Nov. 18th, 1848. All the engines of the noble band of Firemen of which the City boasts, were called into requisition, and they worked nobly, but the raging element did its work of devastation. At one time, the lurid glare of the destroyer could be seen in four different directions, and the skill of the most experienced firemen was baffled. They knew not whither to go, or how to proceed.

THE FIRST.

The first they were called to attend was in the extensive stage stables of the Messrs. Murphy, at the corner of Fourth Avenue and Twenty-seventh street. The alarm was given about twelve o'clock, and though the firemen were promptly on the spot, the whole building was wrapped in one sheet of flame. The scene which followed, says the editor of the *Herald*, beggars description. A rush was made to release the horses, about 175 of which were standing to their halters, while the flames were gathering around them. About 25 of them were rescued, when portions of the roof began to fall. This of course prevented all further effort, and in a few moments that whole portion of the stables was enveloped in flames. The horses reared, but they were firmly held by their halters, while the flames rushed upon them. The sides of the stable were burned, and the picture was awful to look upon. The most terrific shrieks and groans issued from the burning animals, as they were seen to fall and perish in the flames. There was one of the horses which broke its halter and rushed out of the burning building to the sidewalk; but before it could be taken, neighed and again ran into the flames. The terrible groaning of 150 horses sounded upon the ear at one and the same time, and their agony was witnessed without the possibility of affording relief. In the centre aisle the stages were all arranged, numbering thirty-three, seven only of which were saved. In the rear end of the building stood about thirty beautiful sleighs, twenty-five of which were destroyed. In this building were the factory and blacksmith shop, not a single article from which was saved.

The loss of Messrs. Murphy was about \$60,000, upon which there was an insurance of only \$2500. Thus, in one short hour, was all the labor of years swept away by the raging fire, lighted by the torch of the incendiary. The flames communicated to several small wooden buildings adjoining, in the rear of Twenty-eighth street, occupied by poor families, all of which were destroyed. Women were running in every direction, seeking their children, and children seeking their parents. One woman,

supposing that her child was still in her burning house, with the frenzy almost of despair rushed into the house and ascended the stairs to the second story, but the heat was so great that she was forced hastily to retreat. The child had been left, but one of those noble spirits, with heavy coat and leathern cap, appeared at the window, and with one bound safely reached the ground, bearing in his arms the object of that distracted mother's love. In a moment more, the babe was in its mother's arms. She shrieked with joy, and in an ecstasy of wild delight, fell upon her knees and called down the blessing of Heaven on the deliverer of her babe. The scene was truly affecting. The firmest hearts were softened, and the strong man bowed his head and wept. Would we could call the name of that noble spirit, that it could be sounded to his praise. The crowd gathered round, but in an instant he flew, as on the wings of wind, to lend his aid to quell the raging element. The fire had by this time crossed the street, on the south side, and two wooden buildings were in flames. The cry of "water" sounded from every quarter; but every hydrant in the neighborhood was employed, and there was none to be had.

The next in course was the St. Barnabas Protestant Episcopal Church, in the rear. This building was of wood, and in a few moments all hope of saving it fled, and it was laid in ruins. A three story brick dwelling house in front next took fire, but was extinguished after having sustained considerable injury. This property belonged to the Methodist Episcopal Church, and was partially insured. The next was the parsonage of the Rose Hill Methodist Church, occupied by the pastor in charge. His furniture was all taken from the house, but very much broken. From the parsonage the church next fell a prey to the fire, and in a few minutes, from every window burst a volume of flame. The property of the church was saved, but the falling of the side wall seemed only to feed the angry element. This property was valued at \$12,000, upon which there was an insurance of \$5000. The church had been built but a short time, and there was still a debt of some \$7000 upon it. Scarcely had the fire reached its height in this building, when the roof of public school house No. 15, next door, took fire, and was soon a pile of ruins. The citizens were most active, and all the property of the school was removed. This property belonged to the city, and was valued at \$10,000; it was fully insured.

THE SECOND.

While the above fire was raging, the bells tolled another alarm. At the corner of Bowery and Broome street, the shoe store of Mr. John P. First was on fire. The greater portion of the firemen had repaired to the other scene of conflagration, and the flames played upon the house, and in a short time it was laid in ashes. Mr. F. had occupied the building but a few weeks, and had a large stock on hand, the principal part of which was destroyed. His loss was about \$2000, which was partially insured. No. 152 Bowery, occupied as a window shade store, was also destroyed. No. 152½, occupied by John Anderson as a gen-

tleman's furnishing store, was consumed. His stock was principally destroyed, and was not insured. No. 154, occupied by Mr. Heister as a cigar store, was destroyed. His stock was valued at \$4000, a large portion of which was burnt. There was an insurance of \$2000 on the stock. The house No. 348 Broome street, occupied by Mr. M. T. Earle as a show case manufactory, and Mr. Curran as a hair-dressing establishment, was destroyed, with nearly all the stock of the former. Neither was said to have been insured. These houses were all built of wood, and belonged to the Noseworthy estate. They were insured.

The Baptist Church, No. 350 Broome street, was damaged to the amount of about \$800, which is fully insured. The two story brick house No. 136 Bowery, occupied by the Misses Maguire as a millinery store, was partially destroyed, and their stock seriously damaged, which was insured. No. 156½ occupied by Miss Kate Van Baune, as a ribbon store, was also partially destroyed. Her stock was very much damaged by water, but said to be insured. The upper part of the house was occupied by Mr. William D. Van Baune, as a residence, nearly the whole of whose furniture was destroyed, and upon which there was no insurance. Mr. Thomas Cochran, of Hose Company No. 9, was seriously hurt by falling from the roof of the back building of this house. This property belonged to Mr. William H. Pinckney, and was fully insured.

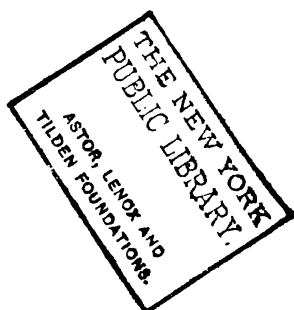
THE THIRD.

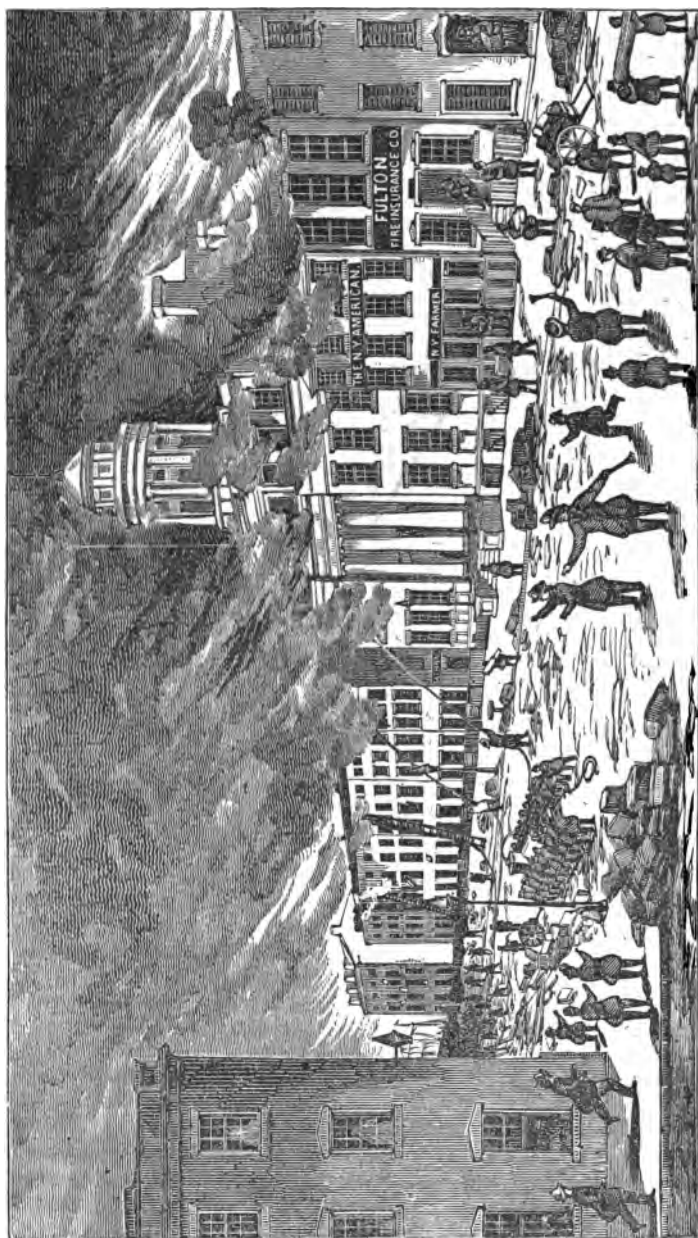
While both the above fires were raging, another broke out at the corner of Thirty-fifth street and Eighth Avenue. The fire originated in a stable in the rear, which was entirely destroyed. The flames communicated to two two-story wooden buildings, both of which were destroyed, and to a large three-story brick house, which was considerably damaged. The loss was estimated at about \$10,000.

THE FOURTH.

And while all the others were in a state of conflagration, a stable in the rear of No. 103 West-Seventeenth street, was discovered to be on fire. This was destroyed, together with four valuable horses.

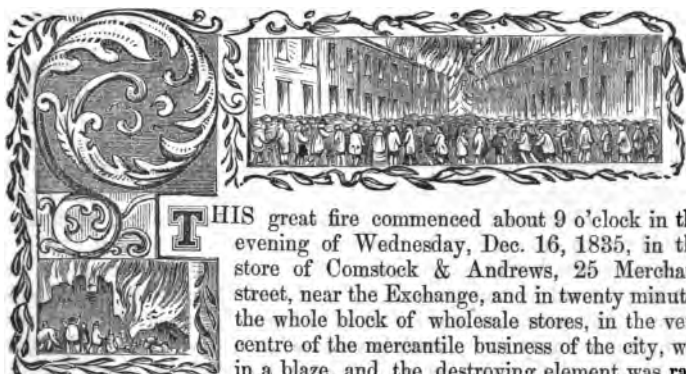
From a little after the hour of midnight, the bells rang incessantly until nearly the dawn of the morning; and from the reflection of the fires, every street in the city was filled with lurid light. Looking around, the heart sickened at the sight of the whole city wrapped in the light of conflagration, with the wind high, and every prospect of a greater devastation than the citizen had for years been called upon to witness. To the base and vicious mind of the incendiary, at least three of the fires are to be attributed; and while the angry flame swept down the habitations of the poor alike with the rich, the human fiend exults in his work of destruction, without fear of discovery or punishment for his worse than murderous deeds. Cannot some measures be devised to entrap and bring to retributive justice the wretch who will thus wantonly destroy the property, and per chance life, of his fellow?





Burning of the Merchants' Exchange, New York, Dec. 16th, 1835.

Great Conflagration in New York City, Dec. 16th, 1835, destroying 670 Buildings.



THIS great fire commenced about 9 o'clock in the evening of Wednesday, Dec. 16, 1835, in the store of Comstock & Andrews, 25 Merchant street, near the Exchange, and in twenty minutes the whole block of wholesale stores, in the very centre of the mercantile business of the city, was in a blaze, and the destroying element was rapidly extending its ravages in every direction. It would be vain to attempt giving the reader an idea of the spectacle presented. The weather had been unusually severe for several days; but on the night in question, the cold had increased to an intensity which has seldom been exceeded. The thermometer stood below zero, with a breeze from the N. N. W. amounting nearly to a gale; and the fire had obtained a tremendous advantage in the most compactly and loftily built portion of the city, filled with silks, cloths, liquors, and other combustibles, and intersected only by narrow streets which could interpose no barrier to the progress of the flames. The rally of the Fire Department was not made with its accustomed alacrity, owing to the unparalleled severity of the weather, and to the fact that there had been so many alarms within the week, and so large an amount of harassing service required of the firemen.

The effort to check the ravages of the conflagration in the quarter to which the wind was vehemently urging it, proved utterly unavailing. The water so plentifully thrown upon it by hydrants and engines, was blown back in the faces, and fell congealed at the feet of the firemen, or seemed only to add to the fury of the elements. William street was passed—Pearl street overleaped—next Water street—then Front—and the very shipping in the docks of the East River was endangered, and only saved by strenuous exertions, and its removal into the stream. No barrier but that of Nature could be interposed on the East; and it was with great difficulty that the fire could be prevented from extending its ravages across Wall street. The Tontine Building (Hudson's News-Room,) was indeed once on fire, but happily extinguished. The extra-

ordinary strength of the Wall street buildings—many of them resisting firmly the assaults of the destroyer, and none of the walls crumbling and falling into the street, as is too generally the case, did more for the safety of those north of the street, than any thing within the power of human effort. For hours, it was doubtful whether the flames could be arrested here ; and if not, there was little hope that they could be before reaching Maiden-lane.

Onward, still onward, swept the besom of destruction ! The hydrants were exhausted—the engines had long been frozen up, with their hose like cannon. 'Westward, the South Dutch Church, which had been made the hasty depository of stores of precious goods, was in flames, which threatened to extend to Broad street throughout. On the South, a desperate struggle was made at Hanover Square, but it was unsuccessful. How could such an avalanche of fire be checked, when water could not be thrown upon it, and seemed of no avail when it was ? A last resort was had to gunpowder ; but none, in sufficient quantities, was to be procured in the city—not being allowed as an article of merchandise. An application to the Fort on Governor's Island was unsuccessful ; but a supply was ultimately procured after daylight from the Navy Yard, Brooklyn, with a corps of marines, &c., and the demolition of a few buildings contributed materially to the subjugation of the flames, which was finally effected at Coenties slip, about noon of Thursday, after an awful and uninterrupted devastation of fifteen hours.

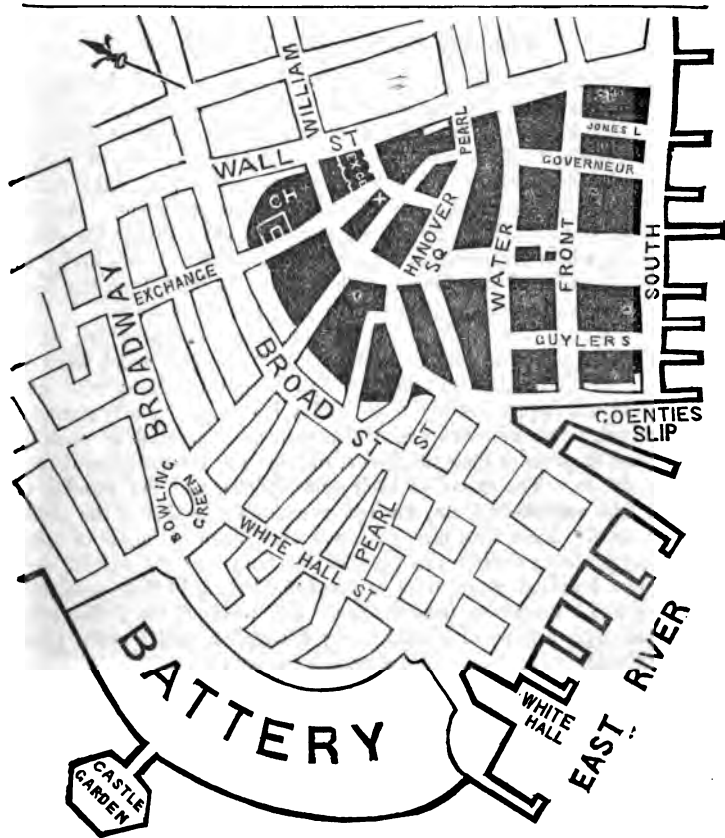
We shall not attempt to give a statement of individual losses ; a bare catalogue of the sufferers would fill a page. Seventeen of the most valuable blocks of buildings in New York were totally destroyed, and three others nearly so. The Merchants' Exchange was destroyed, including the Post Office. Six hundred and seventy buildings were burnt, principally occupied as importing and wholesale stores, many of them by such firms as Arthur Tappan & Co., Bailey, Keeler & Kemsen, &c. &c., with a stock of goods of \$300,000 each.

The south side of Wall street was half destroyed. William, Pearl, Water, Front and South streets, from Wall street to Coenties slip, were in ruins. Exchange place, Hanover street, Merchants street and Hanover square, were entirely destroyed ; Stone street, from Pearl to Broad street, nearly so. Some of the buildings on Broad street were slightly injured ; but throughout the night this noble avenue was universally regarded as the only efficient barrier against the entire destruction of the First Ward.

Of the six large morning papers, only two escaped the general wreck—the Mercantile and the Courier & Enquirer. The Daily Advertiser, Journal of Commerce, and Gazette, were burnt out of both printing and publication offices ; the Times, of printing office only. The American, among the evening papers, was entirely destroyed. All Mr. Minor's periodicals, Railroad Journal, Mechanics' Magazine, &c. &c., were included in the wreck. The printers of the Knickerbocker also. The

other periodicals of the city were mainly exempted from immediate suffering.

Every measure was taken to alleviate the pressure of this afflictive dispensation. A meeting of the Common Council was immediately held—several apartments in the City Hall appropriated to the use of the merchants and other sufferers—the city watch doubled—and a volunteer



The black blocks are those destroyed by fire. X shows where the fire commenced.

guard of one thousand citizens called out for the protection of the city—the firemen being completely exhausted, incendiaries and plunderers still plentiful in every street, their appetites sharpened by success, and city insurance supposed to be no longer worth any thing.

As this Fire is often referred to as the most extensive that ever occurred in this country, we have taken pains to collect all information which would be of interest, not only to the readers of the present day, but a hundred years hence. To do this more effectually, we have examined the various accounts published at the time, from which we have obtained important particulars.

Thursday Evening, Dec. 17, 1835.

It is almost impossible to discriminate the goods which lay on each side of the pavement in every direction, and in every street in the First Ward. All kinds and descriptions of dry goods, groceries, hardware, furniture, desks, books and papers, are huddled together almost without owners. On South street, the wharves were crowded with casks, crates, chests, pipes, hogsheads, &c., all of which we fear are burnt. As they were rolled out for safety, and the engines could not approach the stores, we fear the whole is destroyed. Several houses were blown up by the marines, by order of the Mayor, with powder brought from the Navy Yard, which was necessary to arrest the progress of the flames.

To enumerate the particular individual losses is impossible; as an example, one merchant had in silks alone, \$300,000, which were destroyed; another, \$200,000 in teas and brandies. Many who were prosperous and happy last night, are to-day bankrupts, utterly ruined.

As usual, those miscreants who always avail themselves of such opportunities to plunder their neighbors, did not neglect the present occasion to do so. The extent of their depredations, and the number of robbers who committed them, was commensurate with that of the conflagration itself. More than ninety robbers were taken in the act of carrying away property during the night of the fire; and the ensuing day, nearly two hundred more were arrested for having in their possession property which was stolen from the fire. The rooms of the Police office are filled with articles of almost every description, which were taken from thieves, and the value of which is probably little less than \$10,000.

It is computed that a quarter of a mile square of brick and mortar in the First Ward were entirely levelled to the ground.

The Post Office is removed to the lower floor of the Custom House; in Cedar street. All the mails, letters, and every kind of property belonging to the Post Office, were saved by the praiseworthy exertions of the Postmaster and his clerks, who were on the spot throughout the night.

The appearance of the Exchange this morning is that of a venerable ruin. The broken shafts of its white columns, the crumbling, defaced cornices, scarcely sustained on their tottering capitals, connected with the half-burnt edifices, broken walls and general scene of havoc every where peering through the volumes of smoke, might well cause one to

imagine that he was in the midst of the smouldering relics of some ancient city, rather than in that young and prosperous queen of commerce which yesterday was the metropolis of the western world.

And among the ruins, not the least to be lamented, was the loss of that splendid statue of Hamilton, which, towering brightly amidst the sea of flames that dashed against its crackling base, cast a mournful glance on the terrific scene, and then fell nobly, perishing under the crush of the edifice of which it had been, as it were, the tutelary genius.

The handsome church of the Rev. Dr. Matthews, Garden street, a long while resisted the mass of flames in their course towards Broad street. The bright gold ball and star above it on the highest point of the spire, gleamed brilliantly, and still while they were both shining on the deep blue concave with an intensity of splendor which attracted general remark, gave one surge and fell in all their glory into the heap of chaos beneath them.

A man was caught in the act of setting fire to the house at the corner of Stone and Broad Streets. It is scarcely possible to conceive, that there could exist such a fiend as this in human shape, without supposing him to be either a maniac, or drunk with liquor. It would seem, however, to have been done with a diabolical design, when it is considered that the fearful apprehensions of the whole of that part of the city were directed to this point, lest the fire would cross it and reach the Battery.

In that unusually large space called Hanover Square, where every body thought the goods piled would be perfectly safe, there was accumulated from the stock of all the French stores, a mass of silks, satins, laces, cartons of dresses, capes, Cashmere shawls, and richest kinds of fancy articles, forming a pile of 60 feet wide by 25 feet in height, or nearly 100 feet square. In a few minutes afterwards a gust of flame, like a streak of lightning, came from the N. E. corner building, and shooting across the square, blown by the strong wind, set fire to the entire mass, which it in a few moments consumed to cinders, and then communicated to the houses opposite.

The weather was so intensely cold, that the firemen were compelled to take the fine blankets saved, and cutting a hole through them, convert them into temporary cloaks, in which they were seen at daylight dragging home their engines, many of them so exhausted by fatigue that they were asleep as they walked. One entire company, thus accoutred, had artificial wreaths and bunches of artificial flowers, of the richest kind, in their caps, taken from the wreck of matter, and presenting a very singular contrast with their begrimed faces and jaded appearance.

We cannot pretend to give an estimate of the total loss sustained by this dreadful calamity. *Fifteen millions of dollars* seems the average of current opinions, but we esteem it decidedly too low. The Insurance Companies are generally ruined—some will not pay fifty per cent. There is, however, a considerable amount insured in Boston and other cities.

Saturday, Dec. 19.

Our city owes its thanks to the officers and soldiers of the 3d and 9th regiments, and to the light infantry companies, for their patrol during the nights that succeeded the fire. Also, to the conduct of the marines from the Navy Yard, and U. S. soldiers from Governor's Island, in protecting property in the neighborhood of the fire.

A novel spectacle occurred on the night of the fire at the head of one of the slips. A large quantity of turpentine, piled up in barrels, caught the flames and burnt with great fury, being, as is well known, one of the most inflammable substances that there is. It ran down in a stream like burning lava into the dock, upon the surface, and spread out until it had reached several hundred yards into the river, being lighter than water, and therefore floating upon it, giving the appearance of the river being on fire.

In some of the iron chests, the bank bills, papers, notes, &c., were perfectly uninjured. In others they were totally destroyed.

It is supposed that a thousand baskets of champagne were broken and destroyed, the tops being unceremoniously knocked off, and the contents drank up by the crowds surrounding the fire and working. An immense quantity of baskets of champagne were seen floating in the docks, and cheese and provisions seen scattered there and about the slips.

Monday, Dec. 21.

A gallant effort was made to save the statue of Hamilton, by a young officer from the navy yard, with a party of four or five sailors. They had actually succeeded in removing it from the pedestal, when the danger from the approaching fall of the roof, compelled them to seek safety in flight.

It is estimated that nearly three thousand clerks, porters, cartmen, &c., are thrown out of employment, for a time at least. Many of them have families to support, and no dependence but their daily earnings.

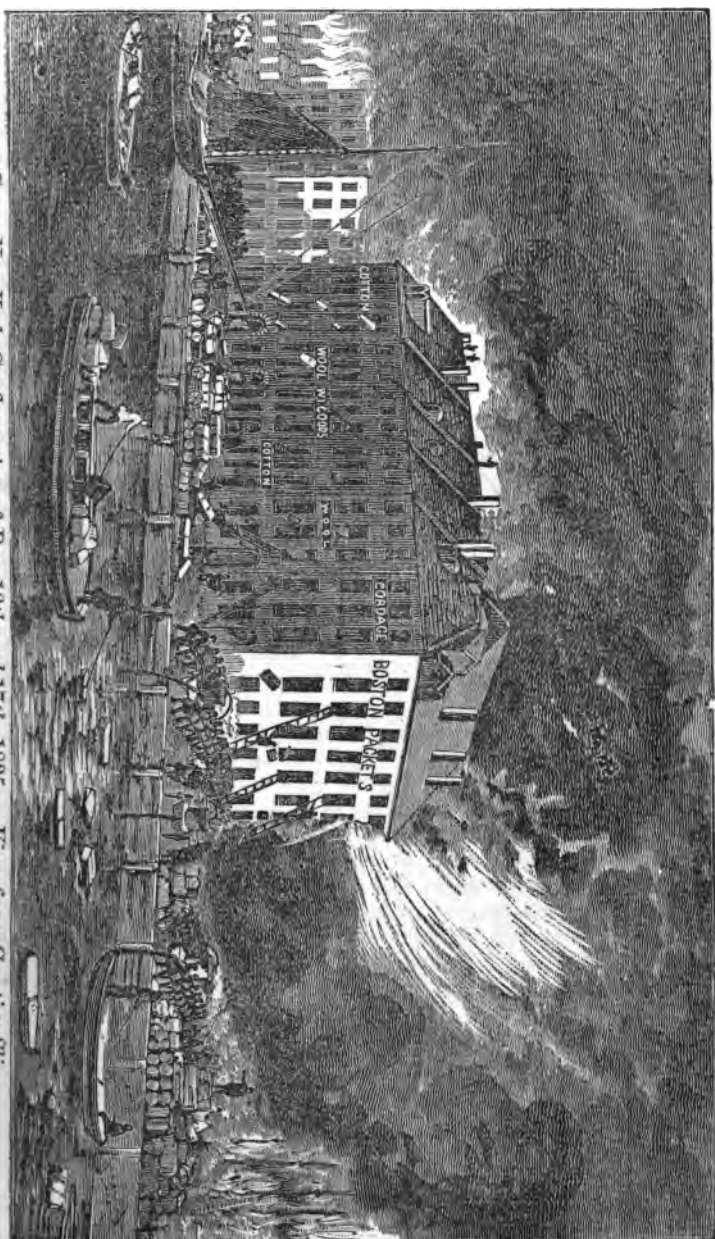
A fine old sycamore, near the corner of Beaver and William streets, on the premises formerly occupied by Cadwallader D. Colden, stands uninjured amid the ruins.

Notwithstanding the immense losses sustained by the merchants, and the horrible state of confusion occasioned by the fire, no failures have as yet been announced, or are expected. Not a note has been dishonored. There never was a more noble display of energy and fortitude, than has been made on this occasion.

The United States marines, eighty in number, under command of Capt. Walker, formed a complete chain of sentinels, on the night of the fire, along South street, from the Fulton ferry to Wall street, and up Wall to the Exchange, thus affording great protection to the property exposed. They kept their post all night.

Great benefits have resulted from the civic patrols formed in several

Great New York Conflagration of Dec. 16th and 17th, 1835. View from Coenties Slip.





of the wards. Property to a great amount has been saved by them from depredation. Great quantities of merchandize, taken on the night of the fire, are supposed to be secreted on the Long Island and Jersey shores, and in the upper wards of the city, which was carried off in boats.

Amidst the general destruction, we are happy to announce that the shipping has not sustained any material injury. A vast many of them were lying at the docks between Murray's wharf and Coenties slip, and at one time we had our fears that the whole would have been destroyed. The water was very low, and they could not for some time get away. The brig Powhattan was on fire, but it was soon extinguished, and all except one brig at Coenties slip finally got into the stream, where they are now at anchor.

Arthur Tappan & Co. escaped the absolute ruin in which so many were involved. Their store being of stone, and having window shutters of thick boiler iron, (put on after the mobs of 1834,) withstood the flames for nearly an hour, while all was in a blaze around it, so that the books and papers, and a very large amount of goods, probably \$100,000 worth, were carried out, and after two removes, placed beyond the spread of the fire. It is supposed that the insurance will cover the remainder of their loss. The energy and daring with which the colored people pressed to save these goods greatly impressed the bystanders. It was with difficulty they were restrained from rushing in after the flames had burst out at the door.

Stephen Whitney's loss in stores, stock and goods, is said to be nearly half a million.

On the second night after the conflagration, a couple of gentlemen observed a stout Irish woman making up Pearl street, near the corner of Wall street, with a large bundle under her cloak. When she saw gentlemen looking at her, she immediately commenced singing—"Hush-a-by, baby," &c. The gentlemen thinking that the poor baby was quite worrisome, offered their aid to quiet its infant restlessness. "Oh, bless your honors, she's asleep now." The gentlemen still persisted in having a peep at the blooming little cherub. She resisted—but it was no go. On opening the cloak, they found that the dear little creature, in the terror of the moment, had actually changed into an armful of the richest silk and satin goods, slightly burnt at the ends. The affectionate mother was immediately secured.

During the fire a store was burnt in which was contained 800,000 pounds of lead, belonging to a merchant in Philadelphia. After the fire was over, and the rubbish removed, it was found that the lead had melted into large masses, so that the owner was obliged to quarry it out.

Tuesday, Dec. 22.—Police Office.

The scene at the Police Office since the breaking out of the fire, has been indeed heart-rending. The squalid misery of a greater part of

those taken with the goods in their possession, the lies and prevarications to which they resorted to induce the magistrates not to commit them to prison, their screechings and wailings when they found they must relinquish the splendid prizes they had made during the raging of the fire, and the numbers in which they were brought by the police and military, exceeded any scene of a similar kind on record. For the last three days and nights, every place capable of detention has been crammed with these miserable objects—sometimes as many as one hundred being in confinement at the same moment. Hundreds were discharged without detention or other punishment than merely taking from them their plunder; and but very few of the whole number, even those who had stolen hundreds of dollars' worth, can ever be convicted, in consequence of the impossibility of the identification of the property stolen.

Blowing up of Buildings.

It is not to be doubted that an earlier resort to the use of gunpowder would have saved millions. The regulations, however, of New York and Brooklyn, remove powder at such a distance, that great delay was inevitable; for at the navy yard there was no powder, and though a most bitter night, and against a head tide, a navy barge was sent to the magazine at Red Hook, a distance probably of four or five miles from the yard, for a supply. Meantime, however, some was received from Governor's Island, and with that commenced the destruction to save. We have seen nothing more characteristic than the entire *sang froid* with which the sailors of Capt. Mix's party carried about, wrapped up in a blanket, or a pea-jacket, as it might happen, kegs and barrels of gunpowder, amid a constant shower of fire, as they followed their officers to the various buildings indicated for destruction.

Firemen from other Cities.

The striking advantage of railroads, especially at this season, when every thing is locked up in ice, was never more emphatically demonstrated, than in the prompt arrival of fire engines from Newark, N. J., nine miles distant. The same locomotive that early on Thursday morning carried out the news of the fire, brought these engines on their platform within an hour afterwards to the city. Their services were eminently useful.

Too much cannot be said in praise of the noble conduct of the Philadelphia Firemen. Immediately on the receipt of the intelligence from New York, four hundred of them organized themselves and started to come on. Unfortunately, by the breaking down of one of the cars on the railroad, a large number of them were obliged to go back, but some arrived early on Saturday morning, and the remainder followed with as little delay as possible. They reported themselves immediately on arrival, and having stations assigned them amid the ruins, went to work with excellent spirit and effect.

THE MERCHANTS' EXCHANGE.



Ruins of the Merchants' Exchange as they appeared Dec. 17, 1835.

The above is a representation of the ruins of the Merchants' Exchange, the day after the fire. The appearance of things on that day will long be remembered by the inhabitants of that portion of the city, then a barren waste—presenting an uninterrupted view from Wall street to the East river, and thence to Coenties slip. The prospect was one of awful grandeur, as far as the eye could reach; here and there the sight only obstructed by the ruins of towering edifices, which were but yesterday the boast of the wealthiest, and now standing as if “in proud defiance” of the surrounding desert.

The Merchants' Exchange was one of the largest structures ornamenting the city, situated on the south side of Wall street, occupying one hundred and fifteen feet front, between William and Hanover streets, extending in the rear to Exchange Place. It was three stories in height, exclusive of the basement and attic. The southwest front, one hundred

and fourteen feet on Exchange place ; and the main front on Wall was of Westchester marble. The first and second stories of the order, from the temple of Minerva Polias, at Prigne, in Ionia. A process elliptical portico of forty feet wide introduced in front. A of four columns and two antæ, each thirty feet high, and three feet inches in diameter above the base, composed of a single block of marble extended across the front of the portico, supporting an entablature of feet in height, on which rested the third story, making a height of feet from the ground.

The height of the cupola above the attic story of the building sixty feet, commanding a very extensive view.

The Exchange was commenced in 1823, and was three years building ; and the cost, including the lot, amounted to \$230,000.

The principal entrance to the Rotunda and Exchange Room was a flight of ten marble steps, with a pedestal at each end. On ascending to the portico, three doors opened to the vestibule in front, while on each hand opened to offices. The vestibule was of the Ionic order the little Ionic temple of Illyssus. The Exchange Room, which the Rotunda, measured seventy-five feet long, fifty feet wide, and fifty-two feet high. In the centre of the Rotunda was erected, by the solicitation of our merchants, a statue of Gen. Alexander Hamilton, sculpted by Ball Hughes, and on it inscribed—

ERECTED TO THE
MEMORY OF ALEXANDER HAMILTON,
By the Merchants of the City of New York,
IN THE EXCHANGE, WALL STREET.

The statue was about fifteen feet high, including the base on which it was elevated, and chiselled from the whitest marble. The figure represented him holding a scroll in the left hand, resting on the thigh, and a scarf partly covering the body.

Attached to the Rotunda were several large rooms, one of which occupied as the Exchange Reading Room. In the rear, was that used for auction sales of real estate, shipping and stocks ; and to the right of this, after ascending a flight of stairs, the saloon in which the Board of Brokers assembled daily, presented itself to the spectator. The Office occupied the easterly portion of the basement.

The fire reached the dome of the Exchange about half past one o'clock, after having raged in the vicinity for five long hours. It crept silently and secretly along, till it burst forth in volumes of flames and smoke. The basement and the rotunda were entirely covered with goods, which had been carried there for safety, no one imagining for a moment that the fire could extend so far. The flames spread with fearful rapidity, and at four o'clock the dome had fallen with a tremendous crash, burying all beneath it in a gulf of burning, smoking ruins, shrouding forever from view the noble statue of Hamilton.

Wednesday, Dec. 23.—Investigating Committee.

An investigation was commenced and carried on in the grand jury room on Monday, before Col. Murray, the Chairman of the Committee of Citizens, aided by Justice Lownds, and Messrs. Ward and Jordan, of the Fire Committee of the Board of Assistant Aldermen, relative to the origin and cause of the late fire.

From a mass of testimony received from numerous merchants, clerks and others, under oath, it appeared to be incontrovertibly established, that the fire originated in the store No. 25 Merchant street, and that it was seen simultaneously in the first and fourth stories of that building, occupied by Messrs. Comstock & Andrews, the two intermediate stories occupied on the Pearl street side by Mr. Henry Babad. That a report like an explosion of a gas pipe was heard in No. 25, to proceed from No. 28, and soon after the flames seemed to have been enkindled on the first floor, and shot up with the rapidity of lightning through the scuttles in the several floors to the upper story and through the roof. And it was the opinion of the examiners, that it must have been produced by the bursting of a gas pipe, and the distribution of the gas, until it came in contact with the coal in the stove or grate, by which it was ignited. The store No. 25 had been closed a little after five o'clock, and the fires well secured to guard against any accident or injury therefrom. This was the result of a long and critical investigation, and proves that no blame is to be attached to any one.

Saturday Dec. 26.—Insurance Companies.

The prospect continues to grow more cheering. It is believed that all the insurance companies will be able to pay in full, or nearly so, and most of them will also be able to go on. The Eagle, Fulton, United States, Bowery, Greenwich City, and New York, are prepared to pay all losses. The banks are behaving nobly. The Mechanics' discounted on Saturday almost all paper that was offered. The City Bank renews all notes falling due, on the same securities. The general impression is, that the city will issue scrip to the amount of several millions.

Rat Incendiaries !

It is stated in the Hartford Times, that not long since the store of a Mr. Church in Ferry street, Hartford, was found to be densely filled with smoke, which proceeded from the outside boarding of the shop, where was placed a large fish box, within the Fish Market adjoining. From this place a lighted candle, of some four inches in length, had been taken by a rat, from a candle-stick, and carried a distance of some six feet. The rat set fire in attempting to draw it between the clapboards and box. Had it not been for the persons present, the property would have been destroyed. Beware of *such incendiaries*.

Destructive Conflagration at San Francisco, California, December 24, 1849.

SAN FRANCISCO, JANUARY 1, 1850

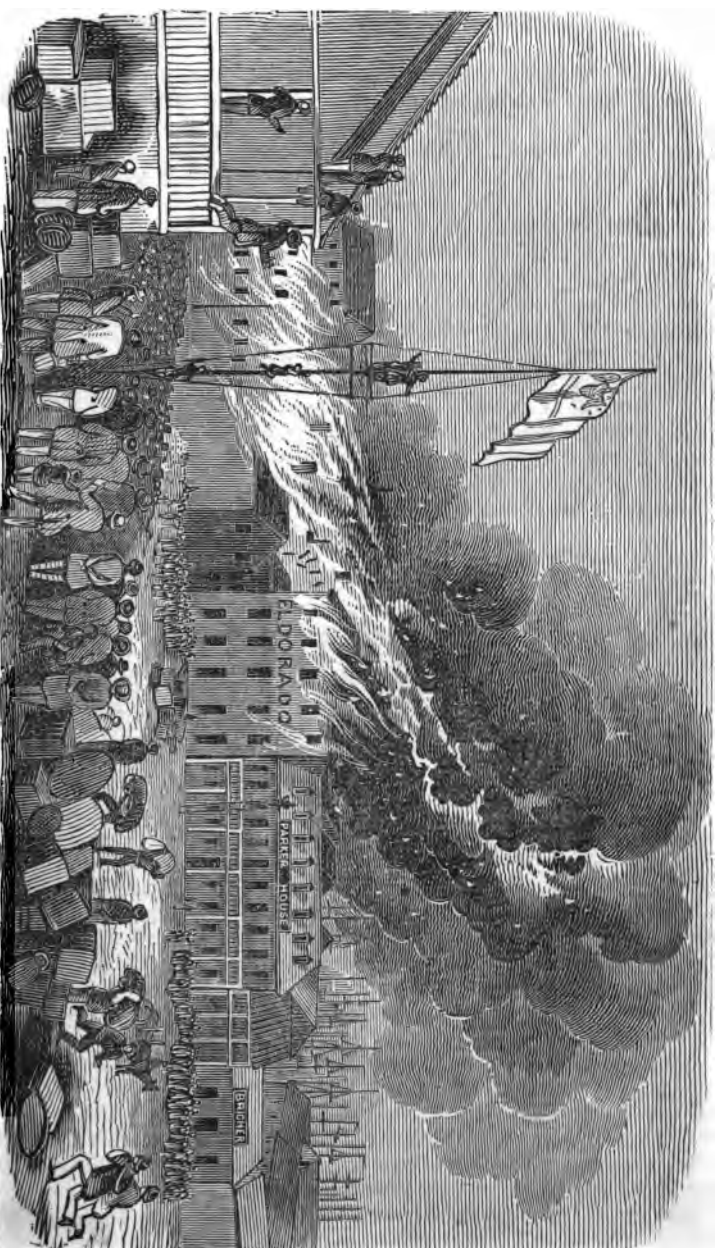


FOR a second time within the last twelvemonth we have been called upon to record the disastrous career of conflagration. That we have dwelled in inexpressible fear of this calamity during the year which has just closed, we must confess; and that a dread of terrible results we have entertained, in conjunction with most of our citizens, should also be acknowledged. Averted by a power superhuman, through a succession of days and months, during which its occurrence we have entailed upon our city utter ruin, it came at last, and though it may again might an event of this nature take place under circumstances especially favoring the escape of the city, we have to deplore the destruction of one of the finest and most flourishing portions of San Francisco.

The fire originated in Dennison's Exchange, and, it is said, in the second and upper story. At about quarter before six o'clock, on the morning of the 24th of December, it was discovered by an inmate of the house, and almost immediately, also, the alarm was communicated by a watchman in the Parker House adjoining. Before water could be procured, the blaze had reached the painted cotton ceiling, and streaming through the sides, ignited the tarred roof. The alarm was sounded and the neighborhood aroused, but by the time this was accomplished the entire building was one mass of soaring flame.

The morning was still, scarcely a breath of air swerving the flames. Soon came thronging to the scene our affrighted citizens, and then commenced the din of a thousand voices, the crash of proper jingling of battered windows, the quick, sharp sound of axes, plied vigorously in cutting away encumbering timbers; and yet, above the roar of the devouring element, which now surged wildly around the Parker House to the north, anon sweeping furiously across the United States Restaurant to the south of the Exchange. Both these buildings were soon on fire; and as the blaze traversed the rear balcony of the former establishment, dense clouds of smoke rolled from the doors and windows at either end, barely giving time to permit the escape of the occupants. Portsmouth Square, in front of the burning buildings, was crowded with anxious spectators, when an alarm was created of *stored powder* in the Parker House. A *stampede* of six thousand human beings then added to the terrors of the spectacle.

Meantime the proprietors of Delmonico's Dining Saloon had assembled upon their roof and that of the Florence Saloon adjoining, a strong and effective force, and by dint of the most incredible perseverance and



Conflagration at San Francisco, Dec. 24, 1849. View in Portsmouth Square, drawn on the spot.

THE NEW YORK
PUBLIC LIBRARY.

A TOLSON AND
TRUSTED FOUNDATIONS.

energy, prevented their buildings, which form the corner of Clay and Kearny streets, from taking fire. The Exchange fell in, and the United States, nearly consumed, was rapidly kindling the grocery store of Hawes, Noel & Crenshaw, situated between the United States and Florence Dining Saloons, when, with a crash, the store was pulled down. and here the flames were arrested on the south.

On the corner of Washington and Kearny streets, at the northern end of this block of buildings, stood the El Dorado, a new four story commodious public house, adjoining the Parker House. From its windows and doors was seen to issue the thick, black smoke, premonitory of a burst of flame. Ladders were reared, the glass crushed in, and from the El Dorado shot forth darts of fire, followed by an ignition of all parts of the house at once. It was when the flames of this towering pile rose highest, that the general pulse quickened, and the hearts of the thousands assembled throbbed wildly with fear and anxiety. So intense was the heat, that men were forced to abandon the roofs and windows of the row of buildings leading up from Kearny street, where they had been stationed and supplied with buckets of water by lines of men extended to the neighboring walls.

The Verandah, opposite the El Dorado, was five times times on fire, and the blankets protecting the roof of the Miners' Bank, Bella Union and Haley House, were successively scorched and crisped, although every exertion was made to keep them saturated with water. From Kearny street down Washington, the stores and other houses on the north side of the street were protected, at great labor and suffering, by parties spreading wet blankets upon the roofs and fronts.

The city authorities during this time had not been idle. Powder had been collected, and a train laid in the store of B. Ayres, in the rear of the El Dorado, which, during the burning of that establishment, was fired, and the store partly demolished. The fire was making rapid progress in the building below, however, ere this was achieved. Very soon the El Dorado frame fell in, and the citizens of the upper town breathed free again.

The two story house of Dunbar & Gibbs, the apartment above stairs occupied as a Merchants' Exchange and Reading Room, was the next to be blown up, by order of the city authorities. Without removing much of the property, this was done; but the vacuum left was insufficient, and still the flames rolled on. A dry goods store, and the Our House and Central House, both restaurants, were one sheet of fire. The whole of Washington Arcade, consisting of five houses, soon added to the conflagration. The auction store room of Pollard & Co., in the rear of the fire, was then pulled down at the instance of the proprietors, followed by the demolition of a new bowling alley, the property of Mr. Gayland, which was torn down by order of the corporation. The fire continued to rage on Washington street, and fears were entertained that the new three and four story mercantile houses on Montgomery street would take

fire in the rear, in which event the lower part of the city could scarcely escape general destruction. The establishment of Guichard & Van Buren, on Washington street, was, therefore, blown up by order of the Alcalde. The order was executed by Major Sweetzer, who was obliged to protect the powder *from falling fiery fragments* with his overcoat.

From the Merchants' Exchange to the Baltimore Restaurant, which was the second building from the corner of Washington and Montgomery streets in the former street, the row was composed of mercantile houses, all two and three story buildings. The fire communicated from one to the other with such rapidity as to prevent the removal of goods; and its advance, it was thought, could be checked only by the destruction of the rear frame part of a handsome and capacious store on Montgomery street, the property of Mr. Leroy. This, with the storehouse of Mr. Heatley, was levelled with the ground.

An engine, owned by Messrs. Starkey, Janion & Co., was at this juncture procured, and a well directed, steady stream of water was found to assist materially in checking the progress of the flames. The block had been swept from Portsmouth Square to the still burning stores of Diaz & Cima, Mr. Guzman, Earl & Mackintosh, and the Baltimore Restaurant. An unfinished brick store, owned by Burgoyne & Co., stayed the fire at the corner of Washington and Montgomery streets, and by vigilant and energetic exertions, the flames were prevented from spreading further. At about 12 m., the last burning building came down, and the conflagration was considered at an end.

Losses.—At this time it is quite impossible to arrive at a correct conclusion regarding the extent of the general loss by this most terrible catastrophe; but we hear it variously estimated at one million and a half dollars, which, it is probable, may not be found far from the mark. The following statement is compiled from various sources, and though not representing but about one-third of the losses, will afford an insight of the magnitude thereof. The property is given in the order in which it was consumed.

Dennison's Exchange, Baker, Curtis & Battelle, \$50,000.

United States Restaurant, Burgess & Ames, \$15,000.

Grocery Store, (torn down) Howes, Noel & Crenshaw, \$16,000.

Florence Dining Saloon, (by breakage and *theft*,) Price & Co. \$3000.

[The above buildings front on Portsmouth Square, and extend to the southward of the Exchange to Delmonico's, corner of Clay and Kearny streets.]

Parker House, McDougal & Co., \$200,000.

El Dorado, Chambers & McCabe, \$78,000.

[From this point north of Dennison's Exchange, and forming the corner of Washington and Kearny streets, the fire proceeded in a N. E. direction down Washington street.

Store, B. Schloss & Co., \$3000.

Store, W. L. Ayres, \$860.

Our House, belonging to Chambers & McCabe, \$33,000.

Store, Rosenbaum & Schaeffer, \$12,000.

Merchants' Exchange building, Dunbar & Gibbs, \$25,000.

On Washington Arcade, running from Washington street one house, Mr. Pearson, (loss not stated.) Two houses, Mr. Cassafourth, one pulled down, \$20,000; one, Mr. White, and another (proprietor not reported, neither loss stated.) Bowling Alley, (pulled down) Mr. Gaylord, \$12,000. Auction room, Pollard & Co., (torn down) \$3000.

Central House, A. Edmondson, \$15,000. Chase & Porter, \$6000.

Store, Mr. Guzman, \$18,000; do. S. W. Hastings, \$12,000; do. McKenzie & Thompson, \$25,000; do. J. H. Levin, \$7000; do. Louis Lack, \$5000; do. Guichard & Van Buren, 4 or \$5000; Boston Exchange, F. Johnson, \$4000.

Stores, More & Co., Schwerin, Garbe & Co., Diaz & Cima, Earl & Mackintosh, and one or more others, losses not stated.

Baltimore Restaurant, Mariness & Barthey, \$20,000.

Store, Victor Leroy, (rear torn down) \$60,000.

Store-house, E. D. Heatley, \$12,000.

One man was wounded by the back stroke of an axe in the knee joint. Another taken to the Hospital with compound fracture of arm. Another with dislocation of ancle: another with fracture of the leg. Two men wounded by explosion of powder. Doing well at last accounts.

A great number of inmates of the Parker House and El Dorado sustained severe losses in clothing, etc.

We regret to learn that Mr. I. M. Hall, proprietor of the Parker, is a heavy loser by the fire. His supplies destroyed are supposed to amount nearly to \$20,000.

It is thought by many that indemnification will be granted those who have sustained losses by the demolition of property at the order of the city authorities.

An additional police body has been added to the town, and watchmen stationed on the ground burned over to prevent sly operations in petty larceny, at which many persons have manifested themselves adapted.

It would scarcely appear credible that men, if so we must call them, when required to assist at the late fire, could demand *pay* for their services, yet such is the fact. We hope they were not Americans. The indifference displayed by too many of our countrymen in rendering assistance, is bad enough; let us not lay the *crime* of *extortion* at their doors.

Additional Losses by the Fire.—P. R. Nigrite, Washington street, \$3000; C. W. Curtney, Chinese Ware Room, Washington street, \$8000; Beck and Woodworth, occupants of the El Dorado, \$3100; J. H. Levein, Washington street, \$5000; J. Truebody, Washington street, \$20,000; J. M. White, Washington Arcade, \$1500; L. Dressand, Baltimore Restaurant, \$1500; P. Paris and wife, (musicians) El Dorado, \$2200; Cueto, Brothers, \$20,000; Messrs. Soruco, \$50,000;

Chambers & McCabe, Our House, \$33,000; Tacy & Liness, Watson street, \$5000; J. Moore & Co., \$6000; Moore, Hart & G. \$5500; Guichard & Van Buren, \$4000; Baker, Curtis & Ba \$50,000; Burgess & Ames, U. S. Restaurant, \$37,000; Jew Melhado, auction store on Montgomery street, \$30,000.

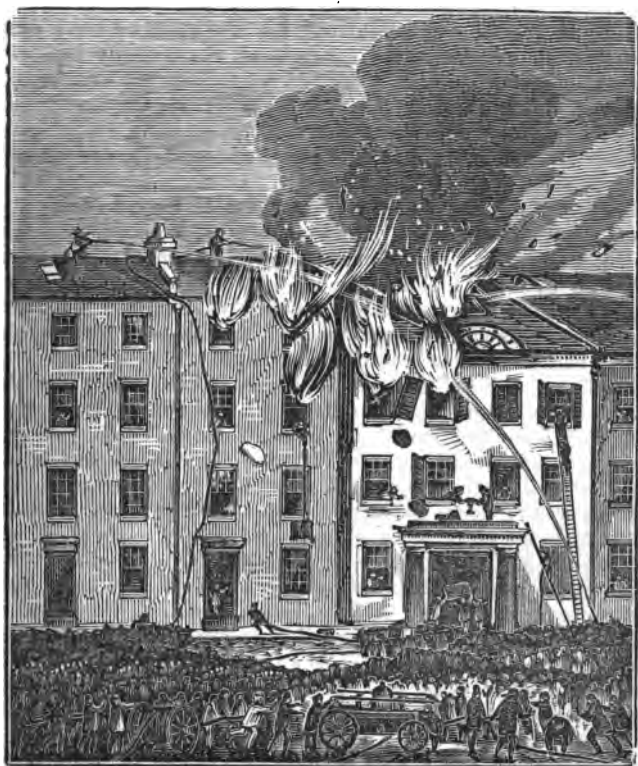
Fire at Stockton, California, December 23, 18



THE following comprehensive report of the fire at Stockton, California is the only authentic account received by us, and for which we are debted to WALTER HERRON, Esq. We have not the means in our power of ascertaining any individual losses, or even the general loss, understand that \$150,000 will about cover every thing.

STOCKTON, DEC. 24, 1849

DEAR SIR:—Last night this place was visited by a severe calamity. A fire broke out between the hours of 11 and 12 o'clock, in the rear of the Arcade, and soon raged with tremendous violence, extending its ravages to several of the adjacent buildings, and notwithstanding the most extraordinary exertions, ended in the destruction of the Arcade, Verandah, Grayson & Stephens' store, a very large new frame building not quite finished, belonging to a colored man, and one or two smaller houses. Mr. E. Lane's house was saved by the most unremitting exertions. The St. Charles was in actual contact with the broad side of the frame that was destroyed, but was saved by the almost superhuman exertions of the citizens, aided by the wind, which was blowing gently from the south

Fire at Gloucester, Mass., September 16th, 1830.

On the 16th of September, 1830, at Gloucester, Mass., a fire broke out at Mr. S. Gilbert's store, which was one of the largest fires that ever visited that town. It commenced about four o'clock in the morning, and the flames spread with such rapidity, notwithstanding the calmness of the atmosphere, that no effectual check could be given until they had destroyed upwards of twenty dwelling houses, together with about forty stores, mechanics' shops, and other smaller buildings. It was conquered only by the most vigorous exertions of the Firemen, assisted by the various engine companies for miles around.

It is doubtful whether it originated from the spontaneous combustion of some fishermen's clothing saturated with oil, or was accidentally produced in the operation of branding mackerel barrels, which was going on till a late hour on the evening previous, in the rear of Mr. Gilbert's store. Besides the buildings burnt, there were also destroyed about

3000 barrels of mackerel, and a small schooner, called the *Phoenix*, a mackerel catcher, belonging to Mr. Gilbert, completely fitted and ready to sail. Another vessel, a sloop, took fire, and was considerably injured; and another one which took fire was saved by being scuttled. Several boats were destroyed. Nearly all the property insured was covered in Boston. Most of the buildings destroyed were upon the south side of Front street. The Custom House and the Post Office, on the north side, were saved with much difficulty. The loss of property and individual suffering must have been great, as the flames spread with appalling rapidity.

The fact of many of the most efficient men of the town being absent, was also unfortunate. The Artillery Company, consisting of about fifty men, was absent on a campaign; and the fishermen, of whom there are frequently from 500 to 600 in harbor, were also gone. All who witnessed the points at which the fire was checked, regarded the matter as astonishing. About 300 females exerted themselves with great spirit in passing buckets of water, and other assistance.

The following list of sufferers is believed to be tolerably accurate:—Samuel Gilbert, two stores, two dwelling houses and out-buildings, with about 1200 barrels of mackerel. John W. Lowe, stable, (horses, carriages, &c., all saved.) James Mansfield, two houses and a variety store, with all their contents. Zachariah Stevens, house and store. S. & G. Dexter, house and store. Widow Allen, house. A building belonging to the Bank, occupied by several families, and also containing a store. G. & J. Smith, store, and a quantity of lumber and wood on wharf. Hutchins & Stanwood, grocery store. S. Bulkley, tin-plate worker, house and shop. A. Day, hatter, shop. E. Smothers, house and barber's shop. J. W. Haskell, shoe store. Pearce & Sons, distillery and contents, and contiguous a blockmaker's shop, a quantity of mackerel, a lot of wood, &c. J. Steell & Son, sail loft. Mr. Jones, blockmaker's shop, and near it a lot of lumber. Dr. Prentice's house. C. L. Roberts' store, with a milliner's shop and a library above. G. Burnham's house, and a shop occupied by Timothy W. Browne, tailor. W. Lincoln's house. Thomas Ireland, watchmaker's shop, with its contents. Mrs. Dane's house. James Cogswell, tailor's shop. Moses Gilbert, two houses; and a house owned by Gorham Parsons, Esq., of Byfield, occupied by one family.

Much assistance was rendered at a critical moment by the citizens of Sandy Bay and Essex. An engine was also present from Ipswich; and although a limit had been fixed to the devastation at the time of the arrival of the firemen of Beverly, Marblehead, Salem and Danvers, yet much relief was acknowledged to have been afforded by them to their suffering neighbors.

The magnitude of this calamity is increased by the loss of life. An elderly man, by the name of David Burnham, overcome by heat and labor, died soon after. A Fireman was also severely injured.

The entire loss was estimated at \$100,000; insurance \$20,000.

FIRE IN BRATTLE SQUARE, BOSTON.

**Fire in Brattle Square, Boston, August 15th, 1845,
by which two Firemen lost their lives.**



AN event which will long be remembered by the Firemen of Boston and vicinity, on account of the painful and disastrous consequences attending it, occurred in that city, on the night of August 15th, 1845, in the burning (for the second time within a few years) of the extensive stable building connected with the City Tavern in Brattle street, kept by Mr. Lucius Doolittle.

The fire was the act of an incendiary, and was set in a stall from which one of the hostlers had just taken out a horse to lead him to water. A hostler and another person who discovered it attempted to smother it with their hands, but it soon got above their reach, and in a few moments the whole building was in flames, and was entirely destroyed. There were a large number of horses in the stable, principally attached to the different lines of stages which put up at the City Tavern, but they were all got out in safety.

The Fire Department promptly assembled, and the bright light of the fire having been seen for many miles, various out-of-town engine companies soon arrived to the assistance of their Boston brethren. A portion of

FIRE IN BRATTLE SQUARE, BOSTON.

the Charlestown companies were stationed in front of the fire, on Brattle Square, and as they were engaged in running out the hose, the brick wall of the gable end of the stable fell, burying beneath the ruins two of the Charlestown Firemen: Mr. William Roulstone, of Franklin Engine Company, No. 7, and Mr. Emerson G. Thompson, third Foreman of Howard Company, No. 3. They were immediately got out of the ruins, but life was extinct; they must have been killed instantly. Several other persons were seriously injured, who were taken into houses near by, and received prompt assistance from Drs. Bigelow, Channing, and others. The Firemen killed were both young men, and engaged soon to be married. Mr. Roulstone was a sailmaker by trade, and Mr. Thompson a carpenter.—But for the vigorous exertions of Engineers Henry Smith and Joshua Jacobs, who saw the great danger from the starting of the front wall, and warned the crowd, and by force removed several Firemen and bystanders, many more lives must have been lost.

The fire raged furiously, and threatened the destruction of the Brattle Square Church, and other surrounding property; but by the exertions of the Department, it was confined to the stable and the surrounding sheds. The roof of the church was several times on fire, and was considerably burnt.

Besides Charlestown, engines were present from Cambridge, East Cambridge, Roxbury, Dorchester, Chelsea, and other towns, and did efficient service.

The stable was owned by an association of capitalists known as the "Fifty Associates," and was insured. Mr. Doolittle was also insured.

The burial of Mr. Roulstone, which took place at Charlestown, on the Sunday afternoon following, drew together an immense concourse, and the services were solemn and impressive. The body of the deceased was accompanied to its last earthly resting place by a long procession of Firemen, who appeared deeply affected by the solemnity of the occasion. First in the mournful procession came the entire Fire Department of Roxbury; next followed that of Cambridge and Chelsea; then the Department of Boston, followed by that of Charlestown; next followed the hearse containing the body of the deceased, with the leading hosemen of No. 7 as pall-bearers—followed by the members of No. 7, the company to which the deceased belonged, his friends, and the citizens generally.

It being understood that Mr. Roulstone had left a widowed mother, whose chief support he had been, in indigent circumstances, and unable to work for a subsistence, the Firemen of Charlestown and the neighboring cities and towns, with their accustomed liberality, immediately set about raising the means for a substantial token of the interest they felt for her lone condition. The matter was entered into with great unanimity, and a considerable amount was collected, which was duly presented to the afflicted mother.

The body of Mr. Thompson was removed to his native place in the State of Maine.

Burning of the Methodist Book Concern at New York, Feb. 18th, 1836.



THE extensive printing and book manufacturing establishment in Mulberry street, New York, widely known as the Methodist Book Concern, was discovered to be in flames on the morning of February 18, 1836. Fire was first seen issuing from the sheet room in the second story, where it probably originated, though in what manner is unknown, as a watchman went through the whole building at 9 o'clock, and another at 10, and not a spark of fire was known to be in the house. The front building was soon enveloped in flames, owing to the combustible nature of its contents, and the fire spread so rapidly that nothing of value could be rescued, except the account books of the Christian Advocate and Journal; and this, with the back building, also of five stories, with all their valuable contents, was entirely destroyed in a few hours, and only some broken fragments of the walls were left standing.

The flames rose to an immense height, and fragments of books were found in the morning at Brooklyn. The night being intensely cold, and

the hydrants frozen, it was found to be almost as impossible to procure water as at the great conflagration in the December preceding.

Three families resided in the wings of the building. On the north side, Mr. Baker, the porter, and Mr. O'Neal, who were in the employ of the Concern; and on the south side, Mr. Teal, the book-binder.

The dwelling house and stable adjoining the back room in the north, occupied by Mr. Sprader, butcher, were destroyed by the falling of the walls, as were also the dwelling house on the south side, occupied by Mrs. Smith, and the dwelling house of Mr. Ray, in Mott street, the rear of whose house was close to the rear of the book warehouse.

The Book Concern was 121 feet in length, 48 in depth, and six stories high. It contained the Bookstore, Printing Office, Bindery, and Offices for the editors and agents. There were 31 presses in the building. There were employed in the establishment 2 editors, 2 agents, 7 clerks, 1 superintendent of the printing office, who had under his charge 68 persons, and 1 superintendent of the Bindery, who had under his charge 44 males and 65 females; and to mail the Advocate, 12—in all more than 200 persons thrown out of employment.

The loss of this establishment, and its valuable presses and stereotype plates, was a loss severely felt by the Methodist Episcopal denomination, the accumulation being the result of forty years' persevering industry—and the calamity occurring at a most unfavorable time, the Great Fire of December previous having rendered bankrupt many of the Insurance Offices.

The following statement, made at the time by the Book Agents, will be read with interest:—

“The interest which is felt by the public generally, and our friends particularly, in regard to the Methodist Book Concern, renders it proper for us to make this brief statement respecting it. After forty years' operation, the institution, whose beginning was hardly perceptible, had acquired a maturity and strength which exerted a most salutary and extensive influence in the religious community. We had hoped for permanency and increase, but in a few brief hours the devouring element has levelled the establishment to its very foundation. The destruction has been nearly entire. The loss is immense. It is reasonable to inquire, what was done to guard against this catastrophe? We reply that, under a deep sense of our responsibility as agents, we did every thing which was practicable to assure ourselves against such a loss.

“We beg leave to state, for the information of those who may not have been particularly acquainted with our institution and its management, that we had in the plan of our building provided for two dwellings, one in each end of the front building, which were designed to be occupied by some confidential and trustworthy persons in our employment, expressly with a view to the security of the whole establishment. They were thus used up to the time of the disastrous fire. The south

was occupied by Mr. Geo. Teel, the superintendent of our bindery, and the north by Mr. Thos. Baker, our porter and carman, both steady and religious men. It was made the duty of the latter specifically to pass through the entire building every night, from half an hour to an hour after all persons had retired from it, and to examine particularly and carefully by a glass lanthorn, every room and each stove, so as to ascertain their entire safety. This duty, we have no reason to believe, has ever been neglected in a single instance. The report which this person makes of last night's examination, is, that a little before 9 o'clock, P. M., according to his usual custom, he examined the rooms and stoves; that in the folding room, (in which the fire was first discovered, and in which there had been no lights after six o'clock,) the fire was all out in three of the four stoves which were in it, and that in the fourth there was a small amount of coals, nearly extinguished, so that he is confident there was no fire even in this stove half an hour after he left it. Believing all to be perfectly safe, he retired. That between 4 and 5 o'clock next morning, (18th inst.) he was aroused by some roaring noise, which induced him to look out of his window, when he perceived a light reflected into the back yard, and on going out of the door he perceived the flames bursting through one of the rear windows of the front building. The result is but too painfully known. Before 6 o'clock, the noble pile, with its valuable contents, was in ashes and ruins.

"In regard to insurance, we had up to the month of October, kept what was judged by the book committee, who are our constitutional advisers, an amount sufficiently large, covered by insurance in seven of the best offices in this city. After the large fire in Ann street, we became desirous to increase our insurance, and having been informed by one of the companies in which our policy had expired, that it would not renew for less than one hundred and fifty per cent. advance on the previous rates, we had recourse first to Philadelphia, next to Baltimore, and then to Boston, at each of which places, on our first application, we were encouraged to hope for success, but on furnishing them with a particular statement of the risk, they all declined taking it.

"We were then thrown back on our own city, and on the expiration of another of our policies, we renewed at an advance which we thought reasonable; and having ascertained that we could get as much insured at the same rate as we desired, we proceeded to insure at short intervals up to the never to be forgotten fire of the 16th and 17th of December last. Here the means of protecting ourselves ceased to be available and efficient, and here we were obliged to pause, for having failed in an application to our three great commercial cities under circumstances very much less appalling, it would have been madness to hope for success under circumstances such as were marked by the destruction of scores of millions.

"We immediately commenced a more careful and rigid system of self-protection, and for this purpose expended several hundred dollars,

and hoped that by the divine blessing upon those acts of duty, that we were safe. God has permitted it to be otherwise. To his decision it becomes us devoutly to submit. In conclusion, we have only to say, that we are utterly unable to assign any cause for this desolating result.

“Respectfully,

B. WAUGH & T. MASON,

Agents of the Methodist Book Concern.

“Feb. 18, 1836.”

An account of the fire published in the Methodist journals of the time, stated that the whole loss was about \$250,000, and that all the insurance that could be calculated upon was \$25,000.

APPEAL TO THE RELIGIOUS PUBLIC.

An Appeal to the friends of the late Book Establishment was made, and not without immediate response. The clergymen and membership of the M. E. Church immediately rallied, and the result was that subscriptions flowed in from all quarters, and the energetic action for which this denomination of Christians is so distinguished, was never better illustrated than in this case.

The following short letter to the editor of Zion's Herald, written by that good man, Rev. BARTHOLOMEW OTHEMAN, then Presiding Elder of Boston District, is characteristic of the spirit that actuated the whole denomination :

“DEAR BROTHER :—It was with deep regret that I read the late intelligence respecting the destruction of our Book Establishment at New York by fire. My regret, however, has been principally in consequence of the interruption which that *powerful auxiliary* to the spread of *scriptural* holiness must necessarily suffer in its various and benevolent operations. The loss is indeed great, but not irreparable. Nor should we wait for any action of the General Conference at its ensuing session, before we do something, or before we do something *worthy the cause* we profess to love so ardently. There should be but one sentiment inspiring the bosom of every Methodist, and that is, *The Book Establishment must be REBUILT, and REBUILT IMMEDIATELY, and my part of the means to accomplish it is ready.* Let it be recollected, as has been suggested before, that all the *net profits* of the Concern are *appropriated* for the *spread of the Gospel*, and who amongst us will refuse to do what he can in the philanthropic and Christian enterprise of putting the Establishment into its former prosperous condition? Already we have a brilliant example before us, in a subscription of *thirteen thousand* dollars at the meeting in the Green Street Church, as a response to the appeals made to the benevolence of New York Methodists. And shall New England Methodists be the last to imitate so worthy an example? Shall Boston Methodists wait till they know what others are doing, or what the General Conference may do? A thousand hearts answer—*No.* The readiness and liberality with which former calls have been met

re-echo—*No*. Now then let us illustrate the admirable motto of Methodism, "*All at it, and always at it.*" We should remember that this is a common concern, and that what we do towards it, we do for ourselves—for our Church—for our posterity—for our country and the world.

Yours affectionately,

B. OTHEMAN.

Charlestown, Feb. 26, 1836."

It is due to the members of other churches to state, that they were not behindhand in showing sympathy for the loss which the M. E. Church had sustained, but evinced a commendable liberality in contributing means for replacing the loss.

INTERESTING INCIDENT.

The following is a striking incident connected with the fire :—Among the burning fragments of books and printed sheets which were whirled aloft upon the wings of the flames, and borne onward upon those of the wind, was a page of the Bible containing the 64th chapter of Isaiah. It was picked up on the morning of the conflagration, about twelve miles distant, on Long Island, and before the catastrophe was known there. It was indeed a winged messenger of truth, in a double sense, for the fact is no less striking than authentic, that every word of the page was so marred as to be illegible, save the eleventh verse, which reads in the words following :

"Our holy and beautiful house, where our fathers praised thee, is *burned up with fire* ; and all our pleasant things *are laid waste* ! "

An Old Settler.

In the town of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, there is a Fire Engine built during the reign of William and Mary, A. D. 1698. This Engine was shipped from London with the colonists, 1742, and yet exists, just as it was received, with the exception of some common blue paint put on recently. It is about eight feet long, stands on low wheels, with strong wooden axles, and is constructed much on the same plan as the New York machines of the present day. The work yet stands firm, and is 152 years old—no doubt the oldest thing of the kind in the United States.

Conflagration at Smyrna.

A most disastrous fire occurred at Smyrna, in July, 1841. One-third of the Jewish quarter, the whole of the Jews' quarter, several bazaars, a great number of mosques, seven synagogues, and more than 10,000 houses became the prey of the devouring element. It is supposed that thirty or forty lives were lost.

The London Firemen's Dog.

A few years ago a gentleman, residing a few miles from London called up to the metropolis in the middle of the night, by the intelligence that the premises adjoining his place of business were on fire. removal of his furniture and papers of course immediately claimed attention; yet notwithstanding this and the bustle which is ever in the case of a fire, his eye every now and then rested on a dog, which, during the hottest progress of the devouring element, he could not help not running about, and apparently taking a deep interest in what was on, contriving to keep himself out of every body's way, and yet to be present amidst the thickest of the stir.

When the fire was got under, and the gentleman had leisure to think about him, he again observed the dog, who, with the Firemen, appeared to be resting from the fatigues of duty, and was led to make some inquiries respecting him. What passed may perhaps be better told in the original shape of question and answer between the gentleman and one of the Firemen.

"Is this your dog, my friend?" said the gentleman, (addressing the fireman, and stooping down to pat the dog.)

"No, sir," replied the Fireman, "he does not belong to me, or to any one in particular. We call him the Firemen's Dog."

"The Firemen's Dog! Why so? has he no master?"

"No, sir," answered the Fireman, "he calls none of us master, though we are all of us willing enough to give him a night's lodging and a pound of meat; but he won't stay long with any of us; his delight is to be at all the fires in London,—and, far or near, we generally find him on the road as we are going along. I don't think there has been a fire for two or three years past which he has not been at."

The communication was so extraordinary, that the gentleman found it difficult to believe the story, until it was confirmed by the concurrent testimony of several other Firemen; none of them, however, were willing to give any account of the early habits of the dog, or to offer any explanation of the circumstances which led to this singular propensity. A number of facts was made at the time by the inquirer, with a view to the transmission to some of the journals or periodicals, which publish notices of natural history of animals; but other things interfered, and the intention was lost sight of.

A few months after the above took place, the same gentleman again called up in the night to a fire in the village in which he resided, Camberwell in Surry, and to his surprise here he again met with the "Firemen's Dog," still alive and well, pursuing with the same apparent interest and satisfaction, the exhibition of that which seldom fails to lead with it disaster and misfortune, oftentimes loss of life and ruin. he called no man master, disdained to receive bed or board from any one, and was the same hand more than a night or two at a time.—The foregoing acc-

is strictly true, and will be vouched for by any of the regular Firemen of the metropolis.

A gentleman connected with one of the principal fire insurance offices in London, having had his attention called to the singular propensities of the dog above mentioned, made particular inquiries into the matter, and states the following as the result :—

“ His home, if it can be called so, is in one of the recesses of Blackfriars Bridge ; and it is supposed he has acquired his taste for blazes in consequence of being noticed by the Firemen who so frequently pass over that bridge. It has been remarked that he invariably follows close upon the heels of every Fireman he sees, until driven away. On one occasion he followed the engines to a fire at Greenwich, and remained there until the last of the engines had packed up its apparatus to depart. On another occasion, at a great fire in Warwick Lane, he remained with the men sixteen days, during which they were employed in rescuing property from the smouldering ruins. He is perfectly well known to every fireman in London. He is called ‘ Tyke,’ and is exceedingly ugly in his appearance, being one of the worst formed specimens of the turnspit breed.”

“Portuguese Joe” burnt to Death at a Fire in New Orleans, Nov. 29th, 1842.



ON the 29th of November, 1842, the Firemen of New Orleans were called to a fire which broke out at No. 16 Exchange Place, opposite the Post Office, occupied by Messrs. Hepburn & Co., exchange brokers, together with several offices, sleeping apartments, &c. The bar-keeper at the Merchants' Exchange, known as “ Portuguese Joe,” who lodged in the third story, was burnt to death, notwithstanding the Firemen made every effort to save him. Mr. John Taylor was seriously injured by jumping from the third story window.

General regret was manifested in New Orleans, and the melancholy fate of poor old Joe is well worthy a place in the Fireman's Book. He was captain of the maintop on board of Com. McDonough's ship *Saratoga*, at the famous battle of Lake Champlain, at the time that the American flag was shot from the mast. In the very heat of the action, when shot were flying thick as hail, he stuck a hammer in his belt, a dozen nails in his pocket, the flag in his mouth, and mounted to the mast head. All means of fastening the flag in any other manner had vanished long before in progress of the engagement. Joe nailed the flag to the topmast, and descended safely to the deck, amid the enthusiastic cheers of his shipmates !

Portuguese Joe was buried with military honors. The P thus briefly, but feelingly notices the funeral :—The Washington, Firemen, and a large concourse of our citizens of every rank from the Mayor down to the most humble, followed the hearse which contained his burned, blackened corse, to the grave ; thus showing that honesty, however humble, and patriotism, however unpretending, are appreciated and honored by our citizens. The funeral note of the fife and the moan of the muffled drum, seemed to mourn the poor old man's fate. This country's flag was appropriately made his funeral ensign, and that cherished ensign which in life he so gallantly defended to him, as it were, in death. Poor Joe !

The Tropic, in allusion to the tribute of respect paid to the remains of the poor but worthy old man, remarks :—And is there not a moral in all this ? Aye, there is, and a beautiful one, although when drawn out upon the present subject, it is like the smile that we see resting on the brow of the dead. The moral teaches us that the bold, brave heroism of our countrymen look not upon the station, but the services rendered to the adopted citizens. Here was a man, in an humble sphere of life, known by his own patriotism, and respected for his own virtues. No quarter was his, nor did his blood flow from a noble channel ; never flitted over him with her lightning wings, not did the yellow lightning swell his coffers, yet the Templar of the olden time was not more than he. The banner of the proudest land on earth wrapped his coffin, and a phalanx of the bravest men followed him to his grave. Our praise has been sneered at by foreigners as vulgar, and our reward as miserly ; but let them recollect it is our all—the widow's mite.

Louis D. Jose was humble and poor, but he was a brave man, a patriot, and from one end of this mighty land of ours to the other his memory will be cherished, and his gallantry embalmed in a nobler cophagus than that which held the Egyptian king—the annals of the Republic. And such is the reward given by Americans to the pa-



Burning of a Factory at Salmon Falls, N. H., Aug., 1834, and Loss of Life.



AN affair of the most disastrous nature, occurred at Salmon Falls, N. H., August, 1834, in the burning of a large Woollen Factory. The fire caught in the second story, in the picking room, where a lad was employed at the time in picking wool, by friction in the gearing of the picker, and instantly communicated itself to the wool, which being in an unctuous state, and lightly strewn over the floor, communicated the fire to every part of the room. In spite of every effort to stop it, it soon found its way to other parts of the building. The alarm was given for the operatives to make their escape, almost at the moment the flame was kindled, but such was its rapidity, that the stairway was on fire before the girls could descend, so that even those who were saved had to rush through the flames. An eye witness of the scene represents it as beyond description. The poor girls, deprived of the means of escape, and afraid to jump from the windows, seeing death inevitable, appeared

first at one window, and then at another, in the agony of despair. One was driven by the smoke and fire from room to room, till she reached the roof, where she held on by her hands until compelled by the heat to let go, when she fell to the ground, and was so much injured as to cause her death the same evening; and two others perished in the flames. One girl who jumped from an upper window, was buoyed up by her corded skirts, and although she landed on a pile of rocks, was very little injured.

The building where the fire originated was consumed, leaving nothing but the walls. A part of the offices in front, and a large boarding house, and a store on the opposite side of the street, were also consumed. The raw materials and the finished goods were saved. The loss was estimated at \$180,000, a part of which was insured.

The following are given as the names of the killed and wounded:— Mary Nowell, of York, killed by a fall; Lydia Varney, of Eliot, and Harriet Hastings, of Wells, burnt to death; Miss Thomson, leg broken; Sarah Nowell, of Portsmouth, Mary Jane Leavitt, of Acton, Me., and Mehitable Wilkinson, more or less injured.

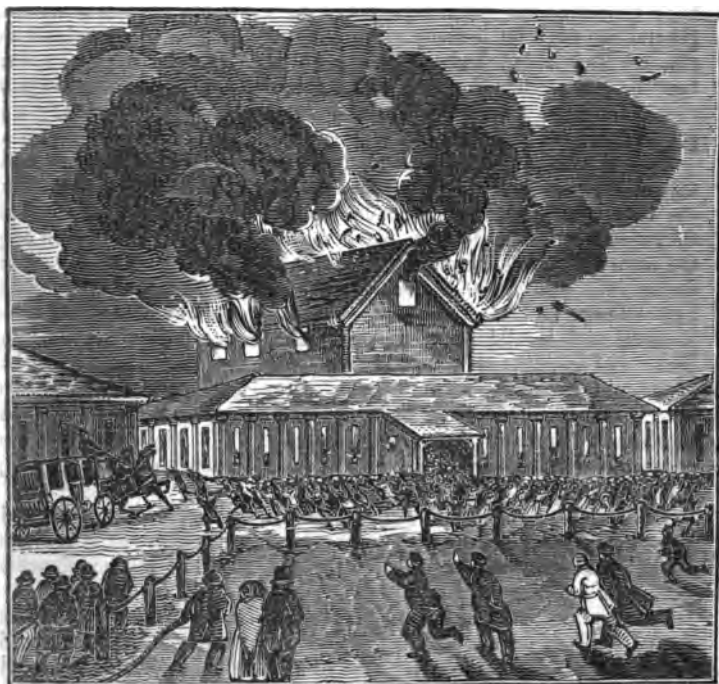
The factory was commenced in the spring of 1822, and was finished in that and the two subsequent years. It is said to have cost \$300,000. It had sixty broadcloth looms, and manufactured about 300 yards of cloth per day, giving employment to about 200 operatives, and support to 500 inhabitants.

REMARKS AND SUGGESTIONS.

All manufacturing companies should be obliged by law to provide their operatives with the means of escape in cases of fire. Stationary ladders should be placed at different parts of the building, which should be amply sufficient for any emergency. Disasters like that at Salmon Falls are liable to occur at any moment, and this case should serve as a warning to all persons employed in factories—more especially females—to see that proper care is taken for the preservation of their lives, and that safety ladders are provided.

THE FIREMAN'S OWN BOOK will record many cases where proper precaution on the part of owners of buildings would have saved scores of lives. We consider the life and limbs of the poorest operative who works in a factory, of quite as much importance as those of the most wealthy owner, and the Law should so regard it; and it will be our aim to point out, as far as possible, the *causes* of the innumerable disasters which fill our pages, that we may be instrumental of good in preventing their recurrence.

**Destruction of the Ducal Theatre at Carlsruhe, 28th
of February, 1847, with great Loss of Life.**



The Grand Ducal Theatre at Carlsruhe, (Baden,) was destroyed by fire on the 28th of February, 1847, by which, unhappily, great loss of life was occasioned.

Soon after five o'clock in the evening, when a large number of persons had already entered the theatre, the third tier of boxes being nearly filled, the fire broke out suddenly in one of the Court boxes. It is said that one of the gas pipes burst, and this was probably the cause, for in a few minutes the whole of the interior of the theatre was in flames. The Firemen soon arrived, but as it was impossible to save the theatre, all their efforts were directed towards the preservation of the adjoining houses. At ten o'clock, all danger was over as regarded them. But what is most terrible in this affair is the loss of life. Several persons in the boxes lost their lives, for, as soon as the fire had declared itself, escape was difficult.

Some, who were in the third tier, jumped into the second, and then into the pit; others threw themselves out of the windows into the yard.

The rapidity with which the fire spread is easily accounted for by the interior arrangement and decorations of the building, in common with all old theatres. As soon as the audience part of the house was beginning to be filled with the volumes of smoke, the confusion and alarm became general and frightful. Many persons in the third tiers of galleries were stifled. The Grand Duke, although he had for several days been confined by indisposition, hurried to the scene of disaster, and by his presence encouraged the Firemen, who were assisted by the military and gendarmerie, all of whom showed great zeal on this lamentable occasion.

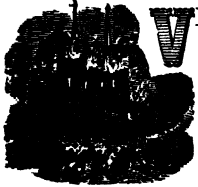
An eye witness of the fire, in a letter from Karlsruhe, dated March 3d, says:—"I have just returned from the scene of action—the theatre and the churchyard—and it is impossible to find words to describe the fearful impression which these two places made on me. Of the theatre only the main walls are left standing right and left, and underneath its smouldering ruins nearly 200 persons, mostly women servants, apprentices, and children, lie buried. In the dead-house in the churchyard the scene is awful and horrible beyond description; entire bodies and different limbs, and members of others, completely roasted, and totally incapable of being identified, are lying about. Seventy corpses are said to have been taken up; many burnt to death, others suffocated or crushed beneath the ruins, or in the narrow passages. The whole city is in the greatest consternation, and many are the families which are thus suddenly plunged into grief and mourning."

It may be regarded as certain that most of the victims were suffocated, and that they had not to undergo death from the flames; it is almost beyond doubt that, overpowered by the gas, they lost all consciousness before the fire reached them.

Among the victims are mentioned a whole family who had just arrived from Ludwigsburg, and an English family who had got lost in the corridors; a brother of M. Honburg, the man of letters; a son of M. Wabel, the prompter. Some threw themselves out of the fourth story windows. One, in attempting to do so, was withheld by a young woman to whom he was affianced, and thus remained suspended till the building gave way, when they both sank into the flames.

The Karlsruhe Theatre, of which the engraving on the previous page is a correct representation, was attached to the Ducal Palace, and open three times a week. The building was plain in its exterior, but was well fitted up within. The central lower range of the building in the sketch consisted of the Painting Rooms; the entrance to the Vestibule or Hall of the Theatre being midway in the range. To the right and left is the conservatory and the orangery. In front is a path and roadway, and in the immediate foreground is a shrubbery and grove of trees, leading to the Palace.

Interesting Description of a London Fire and the Fire Brigade.



VERY little is known by people generally, in the United States, respecting the organizations of foreign cities for the prevention of conflagrations. It will be a prominent feature of the FIREMAN'S OWN BOOK to give particulars of every kind, in regard to the plans adopted in different countries for the suppression of fires. We have often heard questions asked as to the peculiarities of the LONDON FIRE SYSTEM—the kinds of Engines used—the dress of the Firemen—whether the service is paid or voluntary, &c. In reply to these inquiries, it gives us pleasure to state that we are in possession of a vast number of facts, which will appear in our pages. The following graphic description of a London Fire is from the pen of Charles Dickens, Esq.

LONDON, MAY 11, 1850.

Earth, Air and Water are necessary conditions of human life ; but Fire is the first great element of civilization. Fire, the first medium between the "cooking animal" and the wild root and raw flesh-devouring savage ; Fire, the best, because the most useful of servants, and, according to the old proverb, the worst, because the most tyrannical of masters ; Fire, the chief friend of man in creations of nature and of industrial art, yet the most potent of all enemies in destruction ; Fire, the most brilliant and magnificent object on the earth, yet the most frightful and appalling when once it obtains dominion over man and man's abodes ; to subdue, and render docile to all needs, this devouring dragon, and bend his splendid crests, not only to "boil the pot," but to lick the dust before the feet of Science, this is one of the greatest triumphs of mankind, the results of which are every year more and more stupendous.

But amidst all our mastery, we are never permitted to forget that this illustrious slave has neither abandoned nor abated one jot of his original nature. Of this we are but too constantly reminded. Not to speak of lightning and volcanic eruptions, the weekly record of colliery and other mine explosions, of steamboat explosions, the burning of ships, and the dismal transformation to a heap of ashes of valuable warehouses, costly public edifices, or private houses, with "dreadful loss of life," need but the slightest mention to excite a thrill of alarm, or some passing thought of caution in the mind of every person holding the smallest stake in the social community.

To meet this sudden emergency, therefore, and to restore the balance of power, or rather, to put down the mutiny of this powerful slave, and reduce him to his habitual subserviency, we have the Fire Brigade, divided into four sections, and having nineteen stations in the most cen-

tral quarters of the metropolis. This includes two "mighty engines" floating on the Thames.

Of all the rallying words whereby multitudes are gathered together, and their energies impelled forcibly to one point, that of "*Fire!*" perhaps, the most startling and the most irresistible. It levels all distinctions; it sets at naught sleep, and meals, and occupations, amusements; it turns night into day, and Sunday into a "work-day;" it gives double strength to those who are blessed with any energy, and paralyzes those who have none; it brings into prominent notice, and converts into objects of sympathy those who were but little thought of, or who were perhaps despised; it gives to the divers in a whole huge neighborhood the unity of one family.

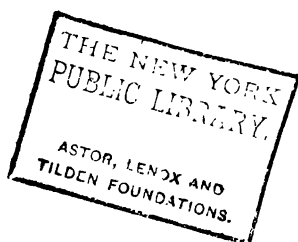
But even while we are trimming our midnight lamp to write this paper, the cry of "*Fire!*" suddenly resounds from a distant street. The heavy boots of a policeman clatter along beneath our window. The cry is repeated by several voices, and more feet are heard hurry along. The fire is in a squalid court, leading into a mews which is close to the backs of the houses of one side of a great square. Men hastily struggle into an overcoat, snatch up a hat, and issue forth to follow the alarming cry.

The tumult sounds in the court; the cry of "*Fire!*" is wildly repeated in a woman's voice from one of the windows of the mews; and from another window!—now from several. "*Fire! fire!*" cry voices of many passengers in streets, and away scamper the policemen to the nearest stations of the Fire Brigade, passing the word to other policemen as they run, till all the police force in the neighborhood are clattering along the pavement, some towards the scene of the fire, but most of them either towards an engine station, to one of the Fire-escapes of the Royal Society, or to pass the word to the policeman whose duty it will be to run to the engine station next beyond. By this means of passing the word, somebody arrives at the gates of the Chief Office of the Fire Brigade, in Watling Street, and seizing the handle of the night-bell, pulls away at it with the vigor which such events always call forth.

The fireman on duty for the night immediately opens the gate, and receives the intelligence, cutting short all loquacity as much as possible, and eliciting the spot where the fire has broken out, and the extent to which it was raging when the person left. The fireman then runs to the bell-handle, which he pulls; and applying his ear to the mouth-piece of a pipe, hears a voice ask, "What is it?" (The fireman hears his own voice sound as if at a great distance; while the voice actually remains sounds close in the mouth-piece, with a strange preternatural effect.) The bell-wire reaches up to the Superintendent's bedside; and the bell being rung, Mr. Braidwood raises himself on one elbow, and applies his mouth to the other end of the tube, answers, and gives orders. A few words of dialogue conducted in this way suffice. Up jumps Mr. Braidwood, crosses the passage to his dressing-room, (armory we call



The London Fire Brigade, on duty.



THE LONDON FIRE BRIGADE.

rather to call it,) and in three minutes is attired in the thick cloth frock-coat, boots and helmet of the Fire Brigade, fixing buttons and straps as he descends the stairs.

Meanwhile all the men have been equally active below. No sooner has the fireman aroused Mr. Braidwood, than he rings the bell of the foreman, the engineer, and the "singlemen's bell"—which means the bell of the division where the four unmarried men sleep. He then runs out to the stables, calling the "charioteer" by the way, and two other firemen lodging close by; after which he returns to assist in harnessing the horses.

Owing to this simultaneous action, each according to his special and general duties, by the time Mr. Braidwood reaches the bottom of the stairs, the engine has been got out and put in working order. All its usual furniture, implements and tools are placed within or packed about it. Short scaling-ladders, made to fit into each other, are attached to the sides; six lengths of hose; branch-pipes, director-pipes, spare nozzle, suction-pipes, goose-neck, dogs'-tails, (the first to deliver water into the engine; the second are iron wrenches;) canvass sheet, with rope handles round the edge, (to catch people who will boldly jump out of window,) dam-board (to prevent water from plug flowing madly away,) portable cistern, strips of sheep-skin (to mend bursting hose,) balls of cord, flat rose, escape-chain, escape-ropes, mattock, saw, shovel, pole-axe, boat-hook, crowbar (*such a fellow!*) to burst through doors or walls, or break up pavement; instruments for opening fire-plugs, and keys for turning stop-cocks of water mains, &c.

All being ready, the superintendent mounts the engine to the right of the driver, and the engineer, foreman and fireman mount also, and range themselves on each side of the long red chest at the top, which contains the multifarious articles just enumerated. Off they start—brisk trot—canter—gallop! A bright red gleam overspreads the sky to the westward. The superintendent knows that the fire in the court has reached the mews, and the stables are in flames. Full gallop!

Along the midnight streets, which are now all alive with excited people—some having left the theatres, others wending homeward from supper at a friend's, from dances, or perhaps late hours of business in various trades,—all are running in the direction of the fire! As the engine thunders by them, the gas lamps gleaming on the helmets of the firemen and the eager heads of the horses, the people send up a loud shout of "Fi-re!" and follow pell-mell in its wake.

Arriving at the mews, the superintendent sees exactly all that has happened—all that must happen—all that may happen—and all that may be prevented. The court is doomed to utter ruin and ashes; so is the mews. Two of the larger stables are on fire, and the flames are now devouring a loft full of hay and straw. But in doing this, their luminous tongues stretch far beyond, seeking fresh food when this is gone. The wind too!—the fatal wind, sets in the direction of the square! The flames are struggling and leaping, and striving with all

THE LONDON FIRE BRIGADE.

their might to reach the back premises of the houses on this side of the square ; and reach it they will, if this wind continues !

Meanwhile two of the Fire Brigade engines, from stations nearer at hand than that of the Chief Office, are already here, and hard at work. A fourth engine arrives from the Chief Office, close upon the wheels of the first—and now a fifth comes thundering up the mews. The Superintendent taking command of the whole, and having ascertained that all the inmates of the court and mews have been got out, gives orders for three of the engines to continue their efforts to overcome the fire, and at any rate, to prevent it spreading to the houses in the square on each side of the one which is now so imminently threatened. He then directs his own engine and one other to be driven round to the front of the house in the square, so as to attack the enemy both in front and rear at the same time. The flames have just reached it—not a moment is to be lost ! As he drives off, innumerable cries and exhortations seek to arrest his progress, and to make him alter his intentions. Several voices, louder and more excited than all the rest—vociferating something about “ saving her life ”—cause him to pause, and prepare to turn, till, amidst the confusion, he contrives to elicit the fact that a stable cat has been unable to escape, and has darted out upon the burning roof of a loft ; and also that Mrs. Jessikin’s laundry—but he listens no further, and gallops his engine round to the front of the house in the square, followed by shouts of excitement and several yells.

The Fire-escape ladders of the Royal Society have already arrived here in front. All the inmates have been got out by the door—at least it is *said* that all are out, by those white figures with faces as white, who, looking round them, really see nothing distinctly—and know nothing as it is—having been awoken by the cries of “ Fire,” and not being quite sure if all this mad hubbub of people, flames, voices and water-spouts, may not be some horrible nightmare vision.

The water-plugs have been drawn, and the gutters are all flooded. The gully-hole is covered—a dam-board arrests the stream and gives depth ; the portable cistern is quickly filled—the suction-pipes of the engines, being placed in it, both of them are got into position. The flames have reached the back of the house ; their points are just seen rising above the roof ! A rush of people seize on the long pump-levers, all mad to work the engines. The foreman rapidly selects ten for each side, sets them to work, and then, one at a time, takes down their names in a book for the purpose, so that they may be paid a shilling an hour—those who choose to accept it. But a hundred volunteer to work—they don’t want the shilling—they want to pump. “ Let me pump ! ” “ I’m the one to pump ! ” “ Do you want any more to pump ? ” resound on all sides from men of all classes, while the crowd press forward, and can scarcely be got to leave room enough for the engines to be worked—and they would not, but for the man with the director-pipe, who soon makes a watery circle around him. The fortunate volunteers at the levers now begin to pump away with a fury that seems perfectly frantic. The Su-

perintendent, who has had many a fine engine disabled during the first five minutes of this popular furor, insists upon their ardor being restrained; and with no little difficulty succeeds in getting his pumping done a degree less madly. Who, that did not know them, would believe that these outrageous pumpers were the very same people who stood with lack-lustre eyes at some tedious operation in trade or workshop, all day long; or, who sat stolidly opposite each other in an omnibus, without a word to say, and seeming too dull for either thought or action? Look at them now!

The wind still blows strongly from the blazing stables—the flames are rapidly eating their way through the house from the back! The two upper stories are already on fire. A figure appears at one of the windows, and makes signs. All the inmates had *not* been got out! An aged woman, a very old and faithful servant of the family, had lingered behind, vainly endeavoring to pack up some of her dear young mistress' clothes and trinkets. A prolonged cry bursts from the crowd, followed with innumerable pieces of advice, bawled, hoarsely shouted, or rapidly screamed to the Superintendent, and the firemen directing the nozzle of the hose.

"Point the nozzle up to the *window*!"

"Up to the *roof* of that room!"

"*Smash* the windows!"

"The *Fire-escape*, Mr. Braidwood!"

"Bring the ropes for her!—*throw up* the ropes to her!"

"Don't smash the windows; you'll *cut* her!"

"She's gone to *jump out* at the back!"

"She is lying on the *floor*!"

"She's *suffocated*, Mr. Braidwood!"

"Send up the *water*, to bring her to her senses!"

"She's burnt to *ashes*, Mr. Braidwood—I see her lying *all of a red tinder*!"

Amidst these vociferations, the Superintendent, having a well-practised deaf ear for such pieces of advice, has despatched two firemen to ascend the stairs, (no fireman is allowed to enter a burning house alone,) while two others enter below, and a lengthened hose is handed up to them with a boat-hook through the front drawing-room window, in order to combat the fire at close quarters, each one being accompanied by another fireman, in case of one fainting from heat or smoke, and meantime to assist in getting out furniture from the rooms not yet touched by the flames.

The two foremost firemen have now ascended the stairs. One remains on the second floor landing, to watch, and give notice if their retreat is likely to be cut off, while the other ascends to the room where the poor old servant had been last seen. The room is quite full of smoke. He therefore drops down directly with his face almost touching the floor, (because, as the smoke ascends, he thus gets ten or twelve inches of clear space and air,) and in this way creeps and drags himself

along till he sees a bundle of something struggling about, which he at once recognizes, seizes, and drags off as quickly as possible. Almost exhausted, he meets his comrade on the stairs, who instantly giving aid, they bring down a little white, smutty, huddled-up bundle, with a night-cap and arms to it; and as they emerge from the door, are greeted with shouts of applause, and roars and screams of "Bravo! Bravo! God bless 'em! Bravo!" from voices of men, and women, and boys.

The old woman presently comes to herself. She holds something in one hand, which she had never loosed throughout, though she really does not know what it is. "At all events," says she, "I've saved *this*!" It is a hearth broom!

The two firemen, each bearing a hose, have now got a position inside the house—one standing on the landing-place of the second floor, within ten or twelve feet of the flames, the other planted in the back drawing-room. The first directs his nozzle so that the water strikes with the utmost force upon the fire, almost in a straight line, dashing it out into black spots, and flaws, and steam, as much by the violence of the concussion as the antagonistic element. The other fireman directs his jet of water to oppose the advances of the flames from the rafters of the stables behind, and the wood-work of the back premises. Both the men are enveloped in a cloud of hot steam, so hot as scarcely to be endurable, and causing the perspiration to pour down their faces as fast as the water runs down the walls from the vigorous "playing of their pipes."

But next door—to the right—what a long succession of drawing-room and dining-room chairs issue forth, varied now and then with a dripping hamper of choice wine, and the sound of cracking bottles; now, with a flattened cradle; now a tea-tray of richly bound books; now a turbot kettle, and then more chairs!

In the door-way of the house on the left there is a dreadful jam. An abominable huge mahogany table has fixed one of its corners into the wall on one side, and the brass castor of one leg into a broken plank of the flooring, on the other, just as a Broadwood horizontal grand was coming down the stairs in the most massive manner, (like a piano conscious of Beethoven,) with its five bearers. These five men with the piano-forte, receiving a check in the passage from three men bearing boxes and a large clothes-horse, who had themselves received a check by the jam of the huge mahogany and its eight or nine excited blockheads, the stoppage became perfect, and the confusion sheer madness. Some of the inmates of this house, who had been wildly helping and handing down all sorts of things, observing that a stoppage had occurred below, and believing they had no more time to spare before the flames would penetrate their walls, brought baskets to the window, and with great energy threw out a quantity of beautiful china, glass, and choice chimney ornaments down upon the stones below, to be taken care of; also an empty hat-box.

Above all the tumult, and adding in no small degree to the wildness and abrupt energies of the scene, a violent knocking at doors in the

square is frequently heard, sometimes by policemen, at other times by excited relations suddenly arriving, desperate to give their advice, and see it attended to. The bed-room windows, in rows on either side, are alive with heads, many of them in night-caps, while the upper windows of several, apparently "the nurseries," are crowded with white dolls, whose round white nobbs are eagerly thrust forth. In the windows of the houses, lights are seen to move about rapidly from room to room, and windows are continually thrown up; a figure looks out wildly—then suddenly disappears.

The two firemen who had gained positions inside the house, each with his long hose supplied from the engine below, had hitherto maintained their posts; the one on the second floor landing having very successfully repelled the advance of the fire, the other in the back drawing-room having fairly obtained a mastery. But a strong gust of wind rising again, sets all their previous success at naught. The flames again advance, and all their work has to be done over again.

By this time the two men are nearly exhausted; two other firemen are, however, close at hand to relieve them. They take their places. As the flames advance, the engines below are worked with redoubled energy by the people, who also relieve each other; but no one will relinquish his place at the pump-lever, so long as he is able to stand, or have one heave up or one bang down more. Still the flames advance! They enter the house! The front drawing-room is suddenly illuminated! A glare of light is reflected from a great looking-glass on one of the walls! A loud shout of excitement resounds from the crowd—while bang! bang! go the engine-pumps.

The fireman, who is surrounded by so strong a glare of light that he appears all on fire, is seen to retreat a few paces towards the door. He is presently joined by another fireman, who runs to the front drawing-room window, out of which he suspends an iron chain, to secure their escape in case of need, and then returns to his comrade. They rally, and each with his brass director-pipe advances again within half a dozen paces of the blazing walls. They are, foot by foot, driven back into the front drawing-room. The flames follow them, and soon are very close to the or-molu frame-work of the great looking-glass.

Bang! bang! go the engines.

"Save the glass!" shout numbers of voices.

"The ceiling! the ceiling's bursting down!" cry others.

Bang! bang! go the engines.

"Save the pieces!"

"The door-post's on fire!"

"Look behind you!"

"The glass!—the glass!"

"Save yourselves!"

Bang! bang! go the engines.

The Superintendent has sent orders to the firemen to give no more attention to the interior of this house, except with a view to prevent the

fire spreading to the adjoining houses. Consequently the stream of water are now directed to drenching the walls, and beating back the flames on either side. The great looking-glass, no longer an object of special protection, is presently reached by the flames. They coil and cluster round the frame-work, which, breaking out into jets of coal fire, gives a splendid magnificence to the design of the carving. The crowd jump up and down to see, and also from excitement. The firemen flap about, and point their long luminous tongues across the broad surface of the glass, which for a moment reflects every object in the room,—the falling ceiling, the firemen in their helmets, the blazing ruin around them, and then crack! clash! clash! the whole falls, a wreck of sharp angles.

Again a loud shout from the crowd below!—not so much of regret as of a kind of wild purposeless joy, which causes them again to leap up and down, expecting and (without knowing it) hoping the same thing will happen to some other glass in the room. Melted lead from the roof runs gleaming down; spurting upon the helmet of one of the firemen, and then running in straggling lines down his thick coat; while another, falling, as usual, edgeways, sticks across the centre-piece of his comrade's helmet. Now, with a rattling and loud rumble, falls the partition between the front and back drawing-rooms, and with it a great part of the ceiling! A terrific shout of alarm bursts from the crowd. The two men are buried in the ruins. The whole space is filled with the dense smoke, and with piles of lath and plaster, and brick and blazing wood.

But see!—a helmet, white with mortar, rises from the floor near the window sill; and now another! One after the other, the exhausted firemen descend the iron chain, and are caught in the arms of the Superintendent and two of their comrades below, while loud shouts and acclamations of applause burst from the crowd.

The stable cat, too, from the mews! See! she has crossed between the burning rafters, and leaped into the balcony of the next house, with her smoking tail and ears.

The flames have been smothered for a time by this fall of the ceiling and partition wall. The Superintendent has now got seven engines round to the front; he takes advantage of the fortunate accident; the wind, too, has shifted; the seven engines pour torrents of water upon the smoking mass and against the walls, and thus continue till the most frightful of all enemies is thoroughly subdued and reduced to blackness and quietude. Most dismal is the scene of devastation; but the end is, at all events, laid prostrate and rendered incapable of further mischief.

Drenched to the skin with cold water, and reeking at the same time with perspiration, the gallant men of the Fire Brigade return to their several quarters. Two of them, however, remain on watch with the engine all night, a change of clothes and "a dram" being sent them from the station.

The Great Fire at Newburyport, Mass., May 31, 1811. About 250 Buildings burnt.



ON the night of May 31st, 1811, the town of Newburyport presented a most sad and lamentable scene to the eye of the beholder. Her houseless citizens, after struggling in vain against the raging element which had in a few hours reduced their homes to ashes, and themselves to penury and distress, walked abroad among the ruins, with dejected countenances and despairing hearts. Many now live who can never forget the horrors of that night—but most of those who were stricken by that sad event, have passed away from “the things that be.” Another generation now walk these streets which the hand of industry and enterprise has long since adorned with more beautiful and costly buildings. To these an account of this signal disaster of which

—“They have something heard,
But not distinctively,”

may not be without interest.

The fire commenced about nine o'clock, in an unimproved stable in Mechanic Row, owned by David Lawrence, which, at the time the fire was discovered, was found to be completely enveloped in flames. It soon extended to the market and to State street, and spread in such various directions as to baffle all exertions to subdue it. In a few hours it prostrated every building on the north side of Cornhill, and both sides of State street, from Cornhill to the market; it then proceeded into Essex street, on the north-east side, to the house of Captain James Kettell, where it was checked—into Middle street as far as Fair street, on the north-east side and within a few rods thereof on the south-west side—into Liberty street within one house of Independent street, and down Water street, as far as Hudson's wharf, sweeping off every building within that circle. The whole of Centre street was laid in ashes, and the whole range of buildings in Merchant's row on the Ferry wharf, also all the stores on the several wharves between the market and Marquand's wharf, including the latter. Thus clearing a large tract of land of sixteen and a half acres in a part of the town the most compact, and containing a much larger proportion of the wealth of the town than any other part.

It is estimated that nearly 250 buildings were burnt, most of which were stores and dwelling-houses; in which number nearly all the dry goods stores in town are included; four printing offices, being the whole

number in town, and including the Newburyport Herald office custom-house; the surveyor's office; the post-office; two insurance offices of the Union and the Phoenix; the Baptist meeting-house; four attorney offices; four book-stores, the loss in one of which was 30,000 dollars; and also the town library.

Blunt's Building and the Phoenix Building, two large four story buildings, seemed to present a barrier to the destructive element, great hopes were entertained for a time that they would effectually strain its rage; but by a sudden change of the wind, the flames were carried directly upon these immense piles, which they soon overtopped and involved in the calamity, which threatened to become general. The street at this time presented a spectacle most terribly sublime! The wind, soon after its change, blew strong; these buildings, which were much the highest in the street, threw the fire in awful columns many yards into the air, and the flames extended in one continued sheet of fire across the spacious area!

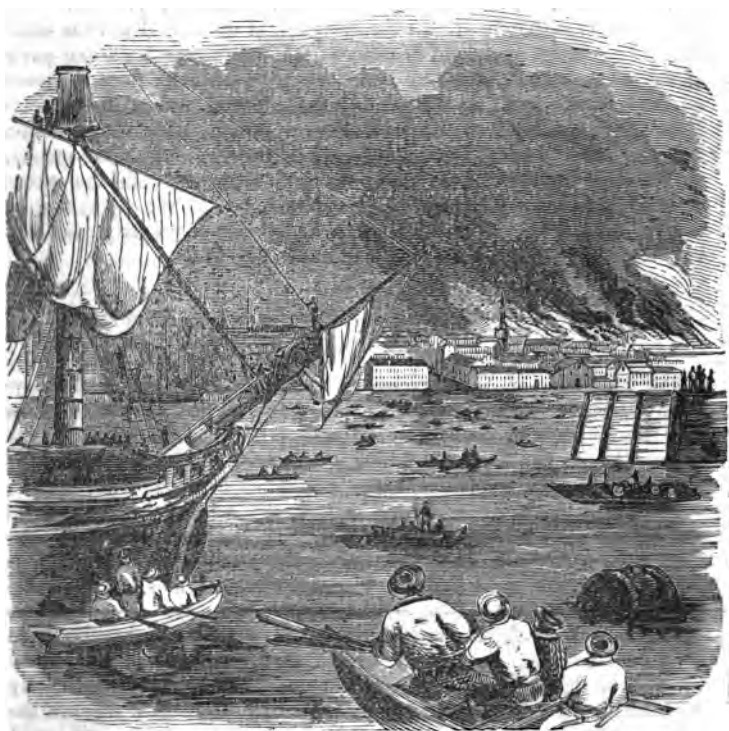
The large brick Baptist meeting-house, in Liberty street, in which many had deposited their goods, furniture, &c., as (from its distance from the construction,) a place of undoubted safety, with its contents shared in the increased awful calamity.

At two o'clock in the morning, the fire seemed to rage in every direction with irresistible fury, and the inhabitants saw very little prospect of preserving any portion of the town. Every thing was accomplished which intelligent and ardent exertion could effect; but they were disheartened by perceiving those efforts apparently without success. About four the danger diminished, and at six the fire had, in a great degree, spent its fury.

The scene, says a gentleman, who was present during the night, "the most truly terrible I have ever witnessed. At the commencement of the fire, it was a bright moonlight night, and the evening was cool and pleasant. But the moon gradually became obscured, and at length disappeared in the thick cloud of smoke which shrouded the atmosphere. The glare of the light throughout the town was intense, and the heat that of a sultry summer noon. The streets were thronged with the people whose dwellings were consumed, conveying the remains of their property to places of safety. The incessant crash of falling buildings, the roaring of chimneys like distant thunder, the flames ascending in curling volumes from a vast extent of ruins, the air filled with a shower of fire and the feathered throng fluttering over their wonted retreats, and dropping into the flames; the looting of cows, and the confused noise of exertion and distress, united to impress the mind with the most awful sensations.

The following extract, descriptive of the scene, is selected from a Masonic Address delivered before the brethren of the Lodges of St. Peter and St. Mark, in Newburyport, assembled to commemorate the nativity of St. John the Baptist, June 24th:—

"The uncertainty of earthly enjoyments has lately been forcibly im-



A View of the Newburyport Fire, from the Harbor.

pressed upon us. When we agreed to celebrate this natal day of our favorite saint, we were moving smoothly along in the common course of business and pleasure. The scene has changed, a wide and desolating conflagration has swept away the hard earnings of many years; brought competence to poverty, and opulence to scantiness. Who, that witnessed, will lose the remembrance of that night of horrors; when the aged, whose happiness is half formed of local attachments, saw '*the mansions where their sires were born*' wrapped in flames; when helpless infancy and exhausted decrepitude mingled their wailings with the noise and confusion of the night; and the mother, affrighted and dismayed, pressed her babe closer to her breast, and fled for shelter and safety, she knew not where."

The loss of property was immense, estimated at a million dollars. Upwards of ninety families were driven from their habitations with the loss of a very considerable part of their furniture and clothing, and many of them deprived of the means of furnishing themselves with the necessities of life.

The sufferings of the families, whose dwellings and property were consumed, immediately excited the sympathy of the liberal and the charitable. Meetings were held in many of the large towns in various parts of the country, and generous donations were received from different quarters, for the relief of the inhabitants. The citizens of Boston collected over twenty-four thousand dollars, which, with characteristic liberality, they presented to the sufferers by the fire. By these means, the losses of the poorer class were very much lightened; and the extent of the calamity was diminished. But the injury to the town, and to very many individuals, by the absolute destruction of property, was still very serious; and its effects long continued to be felt.

LETTERS OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT FROM THE TOWN AUTHORITIES.

NEWBURYPORT, JULY 30, 1811.

The Selectmen of Newburyport acknowledge the receipt of Twenty-Four Thousand Three Hundred and Five Dollars and Fifty-Five Cents from the citizens of Boston, to be appropriated to the relief of the sufferers by the late fire. At a time when a spirit of Charity, as large as our exigencies were imperious, seems to have pervaded our sister States; whilst the benevolence of every part of the country has been most liberally displayed towards us, your bounty has been eminently distinguished, not only in its extent, but in the promptitude with which it was exercised, and the respectful kindness with which it has been bestowed. We feel ourselves, indeed, deeply indebted to our fellow citizens for the peculiarly grateful manner in which their charities have been communicated, as well as for the very liberal amount. In the blessings of that Philanthropy, which measures its benevolence only by the wants of the distressed, and in imparting its bounty regards the feelings as well as the necessities of its brethren, we have participated on the present occasion beyond, as we believe, any other subjects of affliction; and it will be consecrated in our remembrance long after the sufferings which excited it shall be forgotten.

Although Charity, even in "its perfect work," must fail to afford complete relief in a calamity which swept before it not only the means of support from hundreds, but every thing that was endeared to them by habit, and hallowed by affection—yet the spirit which has mingled its sympathies with ours and shared our burdens, is, we feel, wholly unexampled.

It consoles us to reflect, gentlemen, while enabled to return you only the humble tribute of our thanks, that it is a spirit which carries with it its own reward—that it has for its promise the favor of Heaven—and that in its exercise it is doubly and thrice blessed.

The Selectmen of the town, are authorized and appointed to receive all moneys and other donations for the use of the sufferers; and Wm. Bartlet, Wm. Wourt, Moses Brown, Benjamin Pierce, T. M. Clark, Nicholas Johnson, Joseph Williams, John Pettingel, and Isaac Adams, are appointed to solicit subscriptions and receive donations from the inhabitants of Newburyport.

With sentiments of esteem and respect, we are your obedient servants,
 Jeremiah Nelson, Isaac Adams, Eleazer Johnson, Jacob Stone, Nicholas
 Johnson, jr., Selectmen of the town of Newburyport.

The inhabitants of Newburyport, in town-meeting assembled, this third day of June, A. D. 1811, offer their sincere acknowledgments of gratitude, for the friendly assistance received in the late tremendous and desolating fire. They would express their thanks to the people in the neighboring towns, Newbury, Salisbury and Amesbury, for their accustomed vigilance and exertion; for they were like brothers rescuing brothers from the flames; to the people of Rowley, Ipswich, Danvers, Beverly, Haverhill, Topsfield, Bradford, and the towns of the State of New Hampshire in our vicinity, for they flew to our assistance as soon as information of our distress was given; to the people of Salem, for they rendered us the most active and necessary assistance in guarding our lives and property on the night succeeding the destruction, when we were exhausted by trouble and fatigue. The conduct of all our friends, who afforded us help in time of need, will be held as an example for the good and benevolent as long as the memory of our calamity lasts, and they have our best wishes for their welfare, and our prayers to Almighty God that they may be preserved from similar evils.

A true copy of Record—Attest,

JOHN FITZ, Town Clerk.

Exciting Scene at a New York Fire.



THE Firemen of New York were called out about four o'clock on the morning of June 6, 1850, by an alarm from some buildings in Twenty-ninth street, near Lexington avenue. The fire companies were soon in attendance. A woman named Margaret Campbell, with an infant child in her arms, appeared at one of the windows, surrounded by flames, and crying out for help. Joseph Davison, foreman, John Rogers, assistant foreman, and Wm. Minor and Wm. Seaman, members of No. 39 Hose Co., rushed through the flames, reckless of danger, and in a moment were hidden from view. In an instant after, Rogers and Minor were seen descending the stairs, bearing out both mother and child, amidst the most enthusiastic and deafening shouts of the firemen and the spectators. They were both considerably burned, as also the brave firemen. The child was conveyed to the drug store of Dr. Warner, corner of Twenty-seventh street, who refused to dress the burns unless paid in advance. A gentleman named Shea, paid the fee, (50 cents,) and he then dressed the wounds, after which the child was conveyed to the hospital. Three frame dwellings, two stables and a carpenter's shop, with a carriage house, were destroyed; also three chariots and two stables belonging to Wm. Stephenson, were burnt. Loss in buildings and property \$10,000.

Memoranda of Early Fires in Boston.



BELIEVING that a record of the conflagrations have occurred in our country in past times, and have interest to the people of the present day, our intention to prepare, from time to time, a list of such occurrences from the best data. To accomplish this, we have spent considerable time in consulting the best authorities, and begin with the fires in Boston. It is our intention to follow the matter up with the early fires of other cities and towns, and would fully receive any authentic accounts which can be furnished us.

1631. *March 16.*—The first fire which is recorded to have happened in Boston, took place about noon, on the 16th of March, 1631. "The chimney of Mr. Thomas Sharpe's house caught fire, the splinters being clayed at the top, and taking the thatch, the house was burnt down. The wind being northwest, drove the fire to Mr. Colburn's house, which was some rods off, and burnt that down also. Both these gentlemen's houses were as good and as well furnished as most of the plantation. Much of their own furniture was destroyed, together with the goods of some other families which occupied parts of the houses."

May 18.—William Cheesborough's house burnt, "all the people being present."

1645. *April.*—An explosion of seventeen barrels of gunpowder took place at Roxbury, "which shook the houses in Boston and Cambridge like an earthquake, and burning cinders were brought by winds beyond the Boston meeting-house."

1653.—The year 1653 is rendered memorable by the first great fire in Boston. Neither the part of the town nor the year in which it occurred can be precisely ascertained. We infer that it was near Cornhill, from some expressions in Capt. Keayne's will, where he recommends having a conduit, as "a good help in danger of fire, the want of which we have found by sad and costly experience, not only in other parts of the town where possibly they have better supply of water, but in the heart of the town about the market place—and many fair buildings there be ruined about it." We also date it before the 14th of March, for on that day we find a body of regulations adopted for the better preservation of the town from fire. Before this a man was liable to 10s. fine, if he suffered his chimney to become so foul as to take fire and blaze out at the top. Now every house was to be provided with a ladder to reach to the roof thereof, and a pole about twelve feet long, with a good large swab at one end of it, to reach to the roof of the house. Six good and long ladders were to be furnished by the selectmen, and kept at the meeting-house, and four strong iron crooks with chains and ropes fitted to them, and

this crook fastened on a good strong pole. No person was to recover damage for his house, if pulled down to stop the progress of fire; but no house should be so pulled down without the consent of the major part of the magistrates, or commissioners and selectmen present. No fire was to be allowed on board any vessel or near any warehouse after nine o'clock. Bell men are appointed to go about during the night. Fire buckets are mentioned soon after, and the selectmen are authorized to agree with Joseph Jenks for an engine to carry water in case of fire. Chimney sweepers were also appointed, "with liberty to cry about the streets, that they may be known." Robert Wyatt and William Lane had the honor to receive the first appointments. In these ordinances we trace the rudiments of the present system for the management of fires.

1676. Nov. 27.—The town was alarmed by the discovery of "a sad fire, accidentally kindled by the carelessness of an apprentice, that sat up too late over night, as was conceived, which begun an hour before day, continuing three or four, in which time it burned down to the ground 46 dwelling-houses, besides other buildings, together with a meeting-house of considerable bigness. Some mercy was observed, mixt with the judgment, for if a great rain had not continued all the time, (the roofs and walls of their ordinary buildings consisting of such combustible matter,) that whole end of the town had at that time been consumed." [This is Hubbard's account, in his "Indian Wars."] Hutchinson says, "It broke out about five o'clock in the morning, at one Wakefield's house, by the Red Lion." Large flakes of fire, by the violence of the wind, were carried over the river, and endangered the town of Charlestown. The wharf, which opens next north of Richmond street, (late Proctor lane,) was formerly called the Red Lion wharf, and from the number of buildings destroyed, and the names of persons mentioned in the town records, as interested in the improvements afterwards made in the width and course of the streets, we infer that the fire extended from that lane as far north as Clark street.

We do not find that the engine authorized in 1654 was ever obtained, but after this fire the town appears to have sent abroad for one.

Town Records, 1679. Jan. 27. "In case of fire in the town where there is occasion to make use of the engine lately come from England, Thomas Atkins, carpenter, is desired and doth engage to take care of the managing of the said engine, in the work intended, and secure it the best he can from damage, and hath made choice of the several persons following to be his assistants, which are approved of, and are promised to be paid for their pains about the work:—The persons who formed the first engine company, were Obadiah Gill, John Raynsford, John Barnard, Thomas Elbridge, Arthur Smith, John Mills, Caleb Rawlins, John Wakefield, Samuel Greenwood, Edward Martin, Thomas Barnard, George Robinson."

The following record shows us the antiquity of their privileges. "May 28, 1683. It is agreed that Ralph Carter and seven others, one man out of each company of the train bands, should take the care and charge

of the water engine, to keep it in good order, and be ready upon all occasions to attend the use and service thereof, when the said Carter shall require it, or there be any noise or cry of fire breaking out in any part of this town: In consideration whereof, with consent of the several captains, they shall be exempt from training, and are to attend the said service upon the penalty the law prefixeth for not training."

1679. *Aug. 8.*—Another "terrible fire began about midnight on this date, at one Gross's house, the sign of the 'Three Mariners,' near the dock. All the warehouses, and a great number of dwelling-houses, with the vessels then in the dock, were consumed. It continued till near noon the next day; the most woful desolation that Boston had ever seen—eighty odd dwelling-houses, and seventy odd warehouses, with several vessels and their lading, consumed to ashes. The whole loss computed to be £200,000. Hubbard says in his account, 'It was set on fire by some malicious wretches, as is justly suspected, and half ruined the whole colony, as well as the town.' " This devastation occasioned such a demand for house timber, that the town petitioned the court to forbid its exportation for a time. It also increased the watchfulness of the people; and in some new regulations adopted, we find the singular one, that a man should be stationed on each meeting-house during service on the Sabbath day, to give the alarm in case of fire.

The following appears on the Colony Records, under date of Oct. 18, 1679:—"Whereas the persons hereafter named are under vehement suspicion of attempting to burn the town of Boston, and some of their endeavors prevailed to the burning of one house, and only by God's providence prevented from further damage: This court doth order that Edward Creeke and Deborah his wife, Hepzibah Codman, John Avis, John Easte, Samuel Dogget, Wm. Penny, Richard Heath, Sypron Jarman, and James Dennis, shall depart the jurisdiction and never return, and be kept in prison until ready for their departure.

A law was made about this time to prevent the erection of wooden buildings; and the houses and warehouses near the town dock, which were rebuilt after the great fire in 1679, were either constructed with brick, or plastered on the outside with a strong cement intermixed with gravel and glass, and slated on the top. They were two stories high, with a garret in the high-peaked roof. One of them is now standing, a view of which may be seen on the next page.

This, says Snow, in his History, is perhaps the only wooden building now standing in the city to show what was considered elegance of architecture here, a century and a half ago. The peaks of the roof remain precisely as they were first erected, the frame and external appearance never having been altered. The timber used in the building was principally oak, and, where it has been kept dry, is perfectly sound and intensely hard. The outside is covered with plastering, or what is commonly called rough-cast. But instead of pebbles, which are generally used at the present day to make a hard surface on the mortar, broken glass was used. This glass appears like that of common junk bottles, broken into pieces of about half an inch diameter, the sharp corners of



Ancient Building on the corner of Ann Street and Market Square.

which penetrate the cement in such a manner, that this great lapse of years has had no perceptible effect upon them. The figures 1680 were impressed into the rough-cast to show the year of its erection, and are now perfectly legible. This surface was also variegated with ornamental squares, diamonds and flowers-de-luce. The building is only two stories high, and is about 32 feet long and 17 wide; yet tradition informs us that it was once the residence of two respectable families, and the front part was at the same time occupied for two shops or stores. The water of the dock flowed on the south and southwest sides of it. The principal apothecary shop in the town was once kept there.

1682.—“Another fire happened in Boston this year, by which were many principal houses burnt down again, whereby God would teach us not to trust to *riches, which take wing and fly* away as a bird toward heaven, out of the reach of the owners thereof.”

1683. Oct. 8.—Another fire broke out on the south side of Draw-bridge street, near the Dock, and consumed a great number of dwelling houses, warehouses and vessels. According to Gov. Hutchinson's history, this fire was in the richest part of the town, and happened after the 23d of October.

1690. Aug. 3.—A fire near the Mill-bridge, across the creek in Hanover street, consumed several houses.

Sept. 16.—A fire known as the fifth great fire, happened near the [Old] South meeting-house, greatly endangered it, and burnt several houses. A lad was burnt to death in the house where it began. The best furnished printing house then in the country, with press and types, was destroyed.

1691. June 30.—The sixth great fire occurred at the King's Head, by Scarlett's wharf, North end. Several houses were consumed.

Account of a Tremendous Fire in Moscow, in 1571 destroying the Lives of 200,000 People.

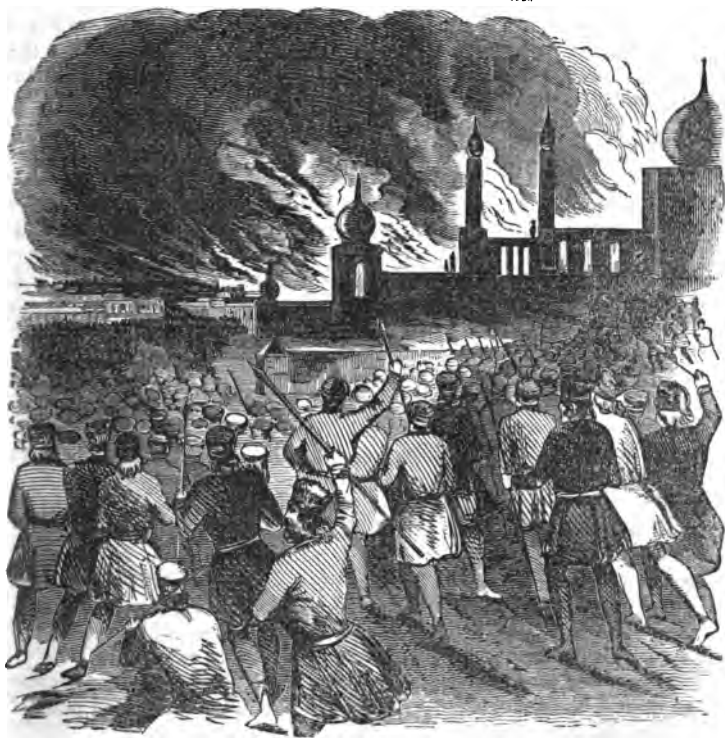


THE following account of the Fire at Moscow, Russia in 1571, including a description by an eye-witness we may safely pronounce has in history no parallel. We find that it was preceded by a plague, which in the course of four months, swept away about 250,000 people.

The plague was followed the year after, on the 15th of May, by a strange ruin and conflagration; the emperor of the Tartareans, being discontented that the Russians did not pay him some annual tribute; and hearing besides that the Great Duke returned nothing in answer but spiteful and reproachful words; wherefore the Tartarean came out of his country about the end of February followed with an army of 100,000 horse, who, within the space of two months and a half, rode about 500 German leagues, which make 200 English miles. When within about two days' journey from the frontier of the duke, he resolved to meet them, and to give them battle; but he lost it, with a prodigious slaughter of his men. The duke knowing that the Tartarean would seek him out, hastened away as fast and as far as he could. He was only within five leagues of Moscow, when the Tartareans came and encompassed the town; thinking that he was within they set fire to all the villages about it; and seeing that the war would prove too tedious for them, they resolved to burn that great city, or at least the suburbs of it. For this purpose, having placed their troops round about it, they set fire on all sides, so that it seemed a burning globe. Then did arise so fierce and violent a wind, that it drove the rafters and long trees from the suburbs into the city. The conflagration was so sudden, that nobody had time to save himself, but in that place where he then was. The persons that were burnt in this fire were about 200,000; which happened because the houses were all of wood, and the streets paved with great fir trees, set close together, which, being oil and resinous, made the fire inexpressible; so that in four hours' time the city and suburbs were wholly consumed.

I (says the narrator) and a young man of Rochelle, who was my interpreter, were in the middle of the fire, in a magazine vaulted with stone, and extraordinarily strong, the wall of which was three feet and half thick, and had no air but on two sides; one wherein was the coming in and going out, which was a long alley, in which there were three iron gates, distant about six feet one from another. On the other side there was a window or grate, fenced with three iron shutters, distant half a foot one from another. We shut them inwardly as well as we possibly could, nevertheless there came in so much smoke, that it was more than sufficient to choke us, had it not been for some beer that was there, with which we refreshed ourselves now and then. Many lords

and gentlemen were stifled in the caves, where they had retired, because their houses being made of great trees, when they fell, crushed all that was underneath ; others being consumed to ashes, stopped all the passages of going and coming out, so that for want of air they all perished. The poor country people that had saved themselves in the city, with their cattle, from threescore miles round about, seeing the conflagration, all ran into the Market-place, which was not paved with wood as the rest ; nevertheless they were all roasted there, in such a manner that the tallest man seemed but a child, so much had the fire contracted their limbs ; and this happened by reason of the great houses that were round about—a thing more hideous and frightful than can be imagined. In many places of the Market, the bodies were piled one upon another to the height of half a pike ; which put me into a wonderful admiration, not being able to apprehend nor understand how it was possible they should be so heaped together.



This wonderful conflagration caused all the fortifications of the town wall to fall, and all the ordnance that were upon it to burst. The

walls were made of brick, according to the ancient way of building, without either fortification or ditches. Many that had saved themselves among them, were nevertheless roasted, so fierce and vehement was the fire; among them many Italians and Walloons. While the fire lasted, we thought a million cannons had been thundering together, and our thoughts were upon nothing but death, thinking that the fire would last some days, because of the great circumference of the castle and the suburbs; but all this was done in less than four hours' time; at the end of which, the noise growing less, we were curious to know whether the Tartareans, of whom we stood in no less fear than of the fire, were entered. After we had hearkened awhile, we heard some Russians running to and fro through the smoke, who were talking of walling the gates, to prevent the coming in of the Tartareans, who were expected when the fire went out. I and my interpreter having come out of the magazine, found the ashes so hot that we durst scarce tread upon them. But necessity compelling us, we ran towards the gate, where we found twenty-five or thirty men escaped from the fire, with whom, in a few hours, we walled that gate and the rest, and kept a strict watch all that night with some guns that had been preserved from the fire.

In the morning, seeing that the place was not defensible with so few people as we were, we sought the means to get into the castle, the entry to which was then inaccessible. The governor was very glad to hear of our intention, and cried to us we should be welcome; but it was a most difficult thing to come in, because the bridges were all burnt, so that we endeavored to get over the wall, having instead of ladders, some high fir trees thrown from the castle to us; wherein, instead of rounds to get up, they had made some notches with a hatchet to prevent us from sliding. We got up with much ado; for besides the evident inconvenience of these rough ladders, we carried about us the sum of 4000 thalers, besides some jewels, which was a great hindrance to us in climbing along those high trees. And what doubled our fear was, that we saw before our eyes some of our company, that had nothing but their bodies to save, yet tumble down from the middle of these high trees into the ditch full of burnt bodies, so that we could not tread but upon corpses, whose heaps were so thick every where, that we could not avoid treading upon them, as if it had been a hill to climb up. And what augmented our trouble was, that in treading upon them the arms and legs broke like glass. The limbs of these poor creatures being calcined by the vehement heat of the fire, and our feet sinking into those miserable bodies, the blood and filth squirted into our faces, which begot such a stench all the town over, that it was impossible to subsist in it.

After remaining a short time in the castle, finding that the Tartars had retired, the writer observes, that the few in the castle and himself left that desolate place.

**Fire and Explosion of Gunpowder at Onondaga, N. Y.,
August 20, 1841, attended with great Loss of Life.**



ONE of the most deeply afflicting events on record took place on the evening of August 20, 1841, at Onondaga, N. Y. At about half past nine o'clock the alarm of fire was given, which brought most of the citizens to a wooden building situated on the tow-path of the Oswego canal, nearly in rear of the Company Clerk's office, and occupied as a joiner's shop by Charles Goings. At the time we had reached the spot, says an eye-witness, the roof of the building was completely enveloped in flames. The engine companies were near the fire, and appeared to be doing good execution. Presently we heard the cry of "Powder! Powder! There is powder in the building!"

When the cry was first given, nearly the whole crowd rushed back, but the move was but momentary. Most of those nearest the fire maintained their position, and very few appeared to place any credit in the

report. At this time we were standing within fifty or sixty feet of the flames—the building had been on fire perhaps fifteen minutes—when a tremendous explosion took place, completely checking the fire and demolishing the building. The explosion lasted, we should think, four or five seconds, filling the air with fragments of the building, and creating the greatest consternation imaginable. The noise of the explosion having ceased, all was still for a moment, and then the most heart-rending groans that ever reached our ears were distinctly heard.

The first person whom we met after the shock was Mr. Myers, the lock tender, a tall, athletic man, with part of his face blown off, and his head and shoulders completely covered with cinders and blood. He begged some one to go home with him, and two persons readily accompanied him. The next was a person brought out dead; one side of his head having been blown off, and his brains fallen out. Oh, Mercy, what a sight! From this followed other scenes which it is impossible to describe. All was confusion. Although the sight of the dead and dying was horrible, it was scarcely less than that of the living, inquiring for their relatives—parents for their children, and wives, almost frantic with despair, for their husbands.

Five persons were found dead in Van Hoesen's blacksmith shop, whom it was impossible to recognize. From seven to ten more were blown to pieces, and their remains could only be collected in fragments. Three or four blacks, names unknown, were also among the killed.

Hundreds of those who heard the cry of powder sought safety in flight, but others who did not hear it, or who considered the danger less than it was, remained. The explosion immediately followed, which was terrible as an earthquake, and in an instant numbers were sent into eternity. The horrid scene which presented itself cannot be described—it cannot be imagined. Mangled and disfigured corpses—with broken legs and arms, and wounds of every description, were found lying about in all directions. The faint glimmerings of the almost extinguished fire, which occasionally shone out upon the blackened and mutilated beings who lay scattered about—the groans of the wounded and dying, of friends searching for friends—all contributed to make the scene one of a most heart-rending and appalling character.

Every thing was done that could have been under the circumstances. An extra train of cars was run to Auburn for physicians, and our hotel keepers threw open their doors for the reception of the wounded. We were on the ground an hour after the explosion occurred, and witnessed the greatest kindness on the part of all. Every effort was made to extricate the bodies, and to afford all the consolation and relief that could be afforded.

Mr. Hudson, of the firm of Malcolm & Hudson, the owners of the powder, in his testimony before the coroner's jury, stated that there were twenty-five kegs, containing six hundred and fifty pounds, deposited in the upper story of the building, in the north-east corner, on or about the 12th. Had the powder been in the lower story, or deposited in the

western part of the building, the destruction of lives must have been far greater, as the great majority of the people on the ground stood on the western side, and were unhurt. Most of those killed were on the eastern side of the building, which stood within ten or fifteen feet of the canal. Here the several engine companies stood, the space between the building and the canal scarcely affording them sufficient room to work advantageously. Engine No. 3, Mr. Gibson foreman, was first on the ground, and consequently nearest the fire, the others coming in on the tow-path, and crowding it along as far as the men could bear. To this company belonged Mr. Hough, and Mr. Durnford, who with Mr. Gibson, were all killed and mutilated in the most horrible manner.

So great was the force of the explosion on the eastern side of the building, that the west side of the Salt Block of Dr. Parker, one hundred feet distance, was completely shattered, and a small dwelling the same distance, lifted from its foundation. It is evident that by the location of the powder, the principal timbers of the building were thrown in an east and south-easterly direction. The smallest number of persons stood on that side; and so far as we can learn, few even heard the cry of powder; and those who did, failed to put much confidence in the report. Mr. Hudson, Mr. Goings and others who knew that there was powder in the building, state on oath that they did all they could to spread this information at the time of the fire; but it is evident that they scarcely knew what they were about, or that they neglected their duty.

Such was the force of the concussion, that nearly whole windows were broken out of the Mansion House, one hundred rods distance. People from the country state that the shock was sensibly felt twenty miles distant.

The water was drawn from the Oswego canal on the morning after the explosion, in order to recover the bodies of those who had been thrown into it.

PERSONS KILLED.

The list we give below, of those killed, was taken from the coroner's books:—

- Thomas Betts, tallow-chandler, friends reside in Rochester, aged 30.
- Joseph Jones, carpenter, man of family, aged 40, from Skeneateles.
- Zebina Dwight, kept a livery stable, aged 30; left a wife.
- Wm. Conklin, butcher, single man, aged 21, has a widowed mother.
- Benj. F. Johnson, farmer, aged 17, from Florence.
- Elisha Ladd, salt boiler, aged 23, from Richland.
- Geo. W. Hurdick, canal-boat captain, aged 24, a wife and children.
- Isaac Stanton, stone cutter, aged 35, left a wife and two children.
- Hugh T. Gibson, aged 40, salt manufacturer, foreman of Engine No. 3, formerly keeper of the City Hotel, Albany, and later of the Syracuse House, had his head blown off, and his body was found in the canal. He was one of the principal business men, and left a wife and children.

Wm. B. Close, cooper, aged 45, left a wife and three children.
 George Gorman, laborer, aged 35, left a wife and three children.
 Horace T. Goings, carpenter and joiner, aged 23.
 C. A. Moffitt, clerk for Bradford & Co., aged 34, a wife and children.
 Horatio N. Cheney, aged 36, canal weigh-master, left a wife (daughter of Col. Levi Chapman, canal collector, Albany,) and three children.
 Loren L. Cheney, weigh-master's clerk, aged 24, brother of the above.
 John Dunford, Jr, aged 23, son of Judge Dunford, a young lawyer of flattering prospects, and endowed with uncommon talents.
 Hanson Maynard, clerk for J. M. Richards, aged 19.
 Noah Hoyt, blacksmith, aged 28.
 Joel Koelhammer, carriage-maker, aged 34, left a wife and children.
 Matthew Smelt, tailor, employed by Longstreet & Agnew, aged 23.
 Ezra H. Hough, druggist, aged 25, member of Engine No. 3, one of the most promising young men of the village.
 James M. Barker, clerk for his father, aged 21.
 Charles Miller, carpenter, aged 20, from Pompey.
 Benj. T. Baker, aged 16, son of B. Baker.
 Charles Austin, aged 16, son of Ezekiel Austin.

LIST OF THE WOUNDED.

We give below the names of forty-three persons wounded, yet there were many more whose names were not obtained—perhaps not less than sixty who were more or less hurt.

Elisha George	Myron Jacobs	Clozen Spencer	Henry Hoag
D. B. Leroy	Son of Peter Lelo	John B. Phelps	T.H. Ostrander
Luther Gifford	Orson Putnam	Dr. Jas. Foran	P. Lowe
S. W. Cadwell	Elisha Jones	David Wheeler	John Conklin
David Myers	B. L. Higgins	Robert Armstrong	S. Packwood
C. Robinson	E. Rosebrook	Nelson Gilbert	J. Crowe
W. Durant	L. W. Bement	Mr. Martin	I. D. Lawson
Jerry Stevens	George B. Walter	John Burns	S. Hurst
Mrs. Appleton	Geo. W. Benedict	D. Brown	John Shoins
Miss Eaton	Jona. Baldwin	Lewis Smith	H. S. Sloan
Thomas Poe	John McCasen	Mr. Collins	

BURIAL OF THE DEAD.

The funerals of most of the deceased took place on Sunday morning, their bodies being followed to the grave by the citizens, firemen, five companies of firemen from Utica, and a large number of people from the country. Business was completely suspended during the whole of Saturday. Hundreds of people from different parts of the country came to witness the effects of the explosion, and the town presented such a scene as was never before witnessed there.

Hydrant Companies versus Full Engine Companies.



COMMON remark, at the time the waters of Lake Cochituate were introduced into the city of Boston, was, that the services of the Firemen and Fire Engines could now be dispensed with. The same was the opinion of many in New York and Philadelphia, and great was the rejoicing upon the occasion. The retired wharf merchant rejoiced, because he thought he would not have to disgorge so much of his wealth in the shape of his annual tax bill. The Washington street clerk rejoiced because the rough Firemen (he cannot think that a human being is a MAN unless he is a *gen-*

tleman, and of course he can't be a gentleman unless he wears clean shirts daily and the biggest kind of a standing collar)—we say he rejoiced because the unfeeling Firemen once spattered his boots, which sixpence had just been expended upon, and with their nasty stream destroyed the magnificent vitriol polish. Putting out the fire was of no account compared with the damage resulting to his boots. The fashionable young woman, the Washington street promenader, the female composed of silk, wool, whalebone, coffee bag skirts, cotton, and a very little flesh and blood, rejoiced because once when she had nearly fallen over a "nasty piece of hose," a man without a coat, in a red shirt, and leathern cap with L. H. on the front, had the audacity to catch her in his arms, and set her down safely upon the sidewalk out of harm's way. The testy old bachelor, who never had his house on fire, and never could see why other people should, rejoiced because the rattling of the machine had awaked him in the night. We say all these people rejoiced with exceeding great joy, and the project to sell off some of the "tubs" and buy hose carriages, was hailed with loud acclamations amongst a small and very nice party.

Some of the machines were put out of commission, and several hose carriages bought. These hose carriages were manned with ten men each, and it was supposed that as soon as they approached, the fires would be so frightened that they would go out of their own accord. Loud praises of the force and height of the stream which the hydrant would throw were heard on every side. The hose carriages were painted so nicely and looked so pretty, that they were believed to be the very *ne plus ultra* of fire annihilators.

BUT MARK THE RESULT. The hose carriages were used with pretty fair success on a few buildings, two or three stories high, and situated at the lower part of the city, where, of course, the water would have more force; and great credit is due to the members of the Hydrant companies for the active and lively manner in which they propel their carriages through the streets. We have ourself helped to drag them, and know just how heavy these labor-saving machines (so called) are. We shall proceed to prove the almost absolute inutility of these carriages for exclusive use, (and it was intended that they should replace entirely the large machines,) for three reasons, any one of which would be sufficient.

First. That water cannot be conveyed through any length of hose with sufficient force to have it do any good when it arrives at the point to which it is directed. And this is proved by three recent instances. First, at the time when the Tremont House was partially burnt, in March, 1850. Second, at the fire on the corner of Court and Sudbury streets, about the same time. Third, at the fire at Nos. 26 and 28 Washington street, which took place soon after the other two. In these three instances, the fires were at so great an elevation that, although the water would pass through the hose attached to the hydrants, its force was so far spent when it reached the outlet at the end of the hose pipe, that it was of hardly any service. This being found to be the case, engines were stationed a short distance from the hydrants, and being fed from them, forced the water with good effect through the entire length of the leading hose upon the flames, thus saving much valuable property which would have been lost, if the only dependence had been upon hydrants and leading hose.

We do not know exactly how high water can be forced through open hose from a hydrant—it depends upon the length of the hose—but we are quite certain that it cannot be thrown high enough one time in ten!

Second. The hose carriages and hydrants have proved almost entirely ineffective in other cities. In New York and Philadelphia, also, when the waters of the Schuylkill and Croton rivers were introduced, the same hue and cry was raised about hose carriages and hydrants, as in Boston. In New York, with characteristic liberality and munificent expenditure, fifty splendid hose carts were bought, manned and officered, and, in the expressive yet profane words of one of the New York b'hoys, "h—l was going to be raised generally!" But the result was, on several occasions, about the same as here. And in this connection it must be remembered that Boston presents more inequalities of surface—that it is a mountainous place—that it is the glorious old city of Three Hills—that fires *will* take place on Coppe Hill, on Beacon Hill, and on Fort Hill, and that the hose carriages could not be so useful here as in New York and Philadelphia, even although they had been entirely successful in those cities, which is not the case, as is proved by heaps of instances, and the fact that the regular full machines are still kept in commission.

Third. The hose carriages are just the worst things in creation to drag. This is a highly important consideration, and deserves a place in **THE FIREMAN'S OWN BOOK.** We have had some slight experience in

this business, and speak from personal experience. When the hose carriages were first set running, with their trotting sulky wheels, pretty paint, neat boxes, and nicely-finished copper work, we thought that they were beautifully sweet little toys, and that they would almost go along of themselves, without any physical propelling force in front of them. Ergo, and of consequence, the ardent and ambitious writer of these lines "froze" to the rope, at one of their first appearances. But we found, (and in this our opinion is sustained by that of many others,) that it is much easier to pull a large "tub" with a moderately full rope, than a hose carriage with only ten or twelve on the "hemp;" and as the number of members of the hose companies is small, about six men is the average turn-out.

There, gentlemen, have n't we made out a strong case against the hose carriages. "Yes," you say; and it is our opinion that the worthy Chief Engineer will agree with us on some points, if not on all.

For the present, gentlemen of the Department, the writer of these few lines bids you Farewell! He trusts soon to talk to you again.

"Comrade! your hand—I think we understand
Each other well!"

THE MAN THAT CARRIES THE HEAD OF THE ROPE.

Boston, August 30, 1850.

Fire at St. Helena, and Curious Way of Waking the Iphabitants.

ABOUT three o'clock on the morning of the 16th of July, (1831,) the Theatre was discovered to be on fire. The engines were upon the spot in five minutes, and about 700 soldiers and officers, and as many as a thousand other men, women, &c.; but notwithstanding all their exertions, and an abundant supply of water, the fire had got such a hold before it was discovered, that it was utterly impossible so save any thing. The combustible nature of the building, together with the scenery, made it blaze out most terrifically, and the whole town was as light as day. Considerable apprehensions were entertained for the safety of the town, but most fortunately there was not a breath of air stirring. Had it happened a day or two previous, the whole town must have been burnt, owing to the wind, which had been blowing hard night and day. As it was, some flakes were carried more than a quarter of a mile, and some fell upon Ladder hill, a height of 600 feet above the Theatre. The people belonging to the shipping in the harbor said it was the grandest sight they ever beheld. The Fabricus, of New York, saw it twelve miles out at sea. Every thing was destroyed, scenery, wardrobe, &c. .

As soon as the fire was discovered, three 24 pounders were discharged to wake the inhabitants; and the whole corps of drummers, about thirty, in number, were marched up the town, beating, until day-light, to keep the people from going to sleep.

Interesting Statistics of London Fires, with Remarks upon their Origin.



THE statistics of London fires are very interesting, and much may be learned from them, not only as matter of anxious information, but of salutary warning. From documents prepared by the Superintendent of the Fire Brigade, we are enabled to furnish the following facts :

The total number of fires in London during the year 1849 was 838. Of these, 28 were utterly destructive fires ; the number of lives lost being 26. Seriously damaged, 228 ; slightly damaged, 582.

Of chimneys on fire there were 89 ; and there were 76 false alarms—not mischievous, but from error or panic. The number of calls on the fire office and other aids amounted to 1003.

In the above 838 fires, the number of insurances (ascertained) were 368 ; those which insured on the building only, were 163 ; those which insured on the contents only, were 72 ; and the number of uninsured was 235.

Of the 26 lives lost, 13 were from the ignition of bed furniture or wearing apparel ; explosion of fire works, 5 ; and 8 from inability to escape out of burning houses.

An examination of the statistics of fires in the metropolis during sixteen years, i. e. from 1833 to 1848, has put us in possession of a great mass of very curious and instructive information, from which we extract the following :

Apothecaries and dealers in drugs,	- - -	36
Bakers,	- - - - -	244
Booksellers, binders and stationers,	- - -	137

Of these latter 96 burnt gas ; and the fires caused by gas amounted to 28.

Cabinet-makers,	- - - - -	156
Carpenters and workers in wood,	- - -	434
Churches,	- - - - -	33

Of these last named, 3 were totally destroyed, and 10 much damaged ; the rest slightly, or mere alarms. Of the cause of the fires, 8 were from the stoves, flues, &c., and 2 from lightning.

Drapers, woollen and linen,	- - - - -	254
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Of these, 105 were much damaged ; 239 burnt gas ; and the cause of 140 of these fires was carelessness or accident with the gas.

Fire-Preventive Company, - - - - - 1

The cause of this was an experiment with some "fire-proof plaster," which ignited in a most unexpected and insubordinate manner, and caused great damage.

Firework makers, - - - - - 49

The cause of these fires, all of which did great damage, was from the nature of the trade; from the smoking of tobacco; from boys playing with fire; and from the reckless trick of a lighted squib or cracker being thrown into the shop window.

Gas works, - - - - - 37

From the great care taken, and ready means of prevention, only 9 of these were much injured, and none totally destroyed.

Grocers, - - - - - 120

Of these, 109 burnt gas; and 26 of the fires are attributable to carelessness or accident with the gas.

Gunpowder sellers, - - - - - 1

Notice the result of a full consciousness of the danger and proportionate care. Only one fire!

Lodgings, - - - - - 868

Of the above number, 368 were found to have been caused by the taking fire of curtains, linen airing, &c. Some of the rest were caused by hunting fleas, &c.

Lucifer match makers, - - - - - 101

Lunatic asylums, - - - - - 2

Observe the great care in these asylums. All the asylums for lunatics furnishing only two fires in sixteen years!

Printers and Engravers, - - - - - 72

Private houses, - - - - - 3352

Of the above, the immense number of 1302 were discovered to have been caused by the taking fire of curtains, dresses, airing linen, &c.

Sale shops and offices, - - - - - 526

Of these, 379 burnt gas; and the fires caused by gas were 129.

Ships, - - - - - 82

Caused by stores, flues, cooking, igniting of cargo, smoking, &c.

Stables, - - - - - 192

Caused by candles, lucifers, smoking tobacco, intoxication, &c.

Tailors, - - - - - 81

Seventeen of the above were caused by gas; 13 by candles; and some by smoking tobacco.

Theatres, - - - - - 20

Of the above number, 8 were caused by gas; some others by smoking tobacco, and the taking fire of curtains, dresses, &c.

Tobacconists, - - - - - 43

Of the above, 6 were caused by gas ; 6 by lucifer matches ; others by curtains, smoking tobacco, by a cat, and by rats. A word more of these incendiaries presently.

Victuallers, - - - - - 542

Of the above, there were 21 totally destroyed ; 167 much damaged, and 354 slightly. Of the causes, 83 were from the flues ; 73, curtains, dresses, &c. ; 65, gas ; 36, smoking tobacco ; 35, a candle. The remainder comes under the various heads of lucifers, hot cinders, intoxication, children playing with fire, a spark, and a monkey.

Besides this "monkey," we have had occasion to mention several other "sparks," concerning whom some passing explanation may be needed. Having noticed the word "cat," occurring several times in the list of annual causes of fire,—“Yes,” replied Mr. Braidwood, the superintendent, “we often have a cat.” It appears that the cat sometimes upsets the clothes-horse with things airing ; or, perhaps, in creeping under the clothes to get inside the fender, drags some of them with her on her back. The fire caused by the monkey was attributable to some prank of his—meaning no harm, perhaps, but not much caring about that. The incendiarism of the rats was undoubtedly effected innocently by their investigation of a box of lucifers, which included a trial if the matches were good to eat. Their teeth exploded them—a feat very easily performed.

Of carelessness with gas in shops and warehouses, or with candles near bedroom curtains, muslin dresses, or linen airing before the fire, we need not speak, as the dangers are too obvious by the results ; nor of carelessness with lucifer matches ; nor the very common practice of raking out the fire at night from the grate, where it would be safe, down upon the hearth, and leaving the hot embers, which perhaps ignite by the air of the closing door, as the careful person retires to bed. Carelessness with a cigar or pipe is also an obvious cause. Working men often put their pipes, half extinguished, or alive at the bottom of the bowl, into their jacket pocket at night, and then hang up the jacket and go to bed. Children, also, being left alone near a fire, may generally be expected to play with fire, either because it is beautiful, or because the play is interdicted.

With respect to “sparks,” that a house should take fire, had always been regarded by us with no small degree of skepticism. A gentleman of our acquaintance carried his disbelief much further. Sitting with a party of sporting friends round a winter’s fire, and these dangers being the subject of conversation, he offered to empty the whole contents of the grate on the carpet in the middle of the room—he to pay all expenses if the house took fire ; his opponent simply to pay for the carpet and the charred floor. They were all to sit round and watch the result. It was agreed. “Now,” said a friend, “I will bet you ten to one this house will take fire, provided we all go out of the room, lock the door, and leave the house.” The other would not venture on this.

Mr. Braidwood's speculation on the question of sparks, in reply to our doubts, is very curious and practical. He estimated the number of houses in London at 800,000. Allowing two *domestic* fires to each house, we have 600,000 in a day; and these multiplied by 7, give 4,200,000 in a week. That one spark, therefore, from 4,200,000 fires should fly out upon some materials easy to ignite, once in a week, is far from difficult to credit; and this would fully bear out the number on the list that are declared to have occurred from this cause.

The number of fires and alarms of fire that occurred in London during the fifteen years ending in 1847, present a continual *increase*. In 1833 they amounted to 458; in 1834, to 482; and so on, down to 1847, when they amounted to 836. This gives a total of 9662 fires during the fifteen years. The average of this is 644.

How are we to reconcile this increase with the extraordinary efficiency of the Fire Brigade, and the improvements in measures of precaution? Partly by the regular increase in the number of houses. But Mr. Braidwood frankly declares that this does not meet the increase of fires and alarms of fire that reach the office. We can only account for it, therefore, by the great increase of scientific combustibles, not merely in our shops, but in our domestic arrangements—especially gas and lucifer matches; and yet more to the fact that, in former years, many slight fires caused no alarm to be given, while now the arrangements are so complete, that probably almost every slight alarm of fire that occurs is carried to the office, and duly recorded.

One of Hunneman's Tubs Down East.



SOME years ago, the worthy citizens of the town of F——, in the State of Maine, voted in their united wisdom to purchase a fire engine. Thereupon an order was transmitted to Boston for one of Hunneman's crack tubs, and a company was formed to take charge of it upon its reception. But the most difficult matter in relation to the affair was to select a proper Foreman. However, after mature deliberation, their choice was fixed upon 'Squire W——, a worthy ex-representative and trader of the town, who had seen the *murchines* in operation on one or two occasions during a transient visit to Boston. In due course of time the chairman of the board of selectmen received a bill of lading of the engine, and a few days after rumor announced to the company that the sloop Susan Jane was coming up the river, with the tub on board.

The b'hoys dropped their hoes, scythes and pitchforks, and started for the "landing." As soon as the sloop touched the wharf, they took possession of the tub *vi et armis*, and snaked her on to the wharf. After various conjectures upon the mode of operation of the critter, they attached the suction hose in order "to see her squirt."

At this moment, the chairman of the board of selectmen approached in a tone of authority told the boys that that machine cost the town too much money to be played with, and "they'd better onship leather pipe before the Foreman came, or he would raise Ned with 'e

By this time the worthy Foreman, (who, upon the first intimation of the arrival of the engine, had gone home and donned his ruffled shirt and presentative suit,) arrived to assume the active duties of his office.

"Fall in, boys," he exclaimed; "man the rope, two and two. Foreman, and I'll go ahead. Now then—forward, march!"

And off they started, up the hill, down "Ragged Lane," over the bridge, up to "Sleepy Hollow," around "Dogtown Corner," across "Ten Shares," and through every highway and by-way of the town until their weary legs and the setting sun admonished them it was time to tie up.

That was a great day for the town and the Foreman, and for an hour after tea he sat and expatiated to his wife upon the responsibilities of the station. At length he retired, and was soon locked in the arms of Morpheus, while his worthy spouse lay, wide awake, wondering when her valiant lord would have an opportunity to distinguish himself.

Her reflections, however, were soon disturbed by a bright light glared into her chamber window. Could it be possible? There was—the *must* be a fire somewhere!

"Husband, husband," said she, "*there's a fire!*"

"Walk her up!" shouted the new Foreman, half waking.

"There's a fire, I tell you," said she.

"Poh! let it burn!"

"There *is* a fire, and I'm going to get up and see where it is."

"Pshaw, you fool!—you will only get your death of cold."

"But I tell you *there is a fire* scooting up like blazes!"

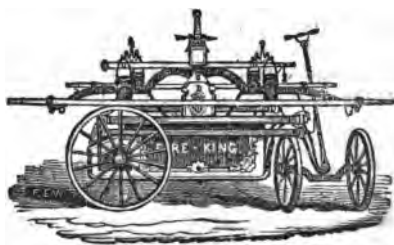
"They're only burning brush up at Sleepy Hollow."

"No—it's t'other way."

"Well, I s'pose 'tis Capt. True's brick kiln."

"Why, good Lord, it is Dea. Butman's house up to Four Corner. It's all of a light blaze!"

"Well, get into bed, you fool, and let it burn! Thank the Lord, our *new engine is nowhere near it!*"



Means of Extinguishing Fires Two Hundred Years ago: Invention of Fire Engines in 1657; and the London Fire Brigade of 1850.



EOW our ancestors endeavored to extinguish fires we can only guess from the nature of things. Buckets of water would be brought and thrown upon the flaming materials by the bystanders, or the thatch of a cottage would be pulled down, or one group of houses would be allowed to burn itself out, and others would be tended for. After a time, when the ingenuity of machinists enabled men to use some more effective means than mere buckets of water, a kind a syringe or squirt was employed, which seems to have been the first rudiment of a fire-engine known in England. Numbers of these were kept by the parochial authorities, as the small fire-engines now are. Their construction was very simple. Each squirt was about three feet in length, with an aperture at the lower end about half an inch in diameter, and a capacity of about half a gallon. It had a handle on each side, and was worked by three men, thus:—two men held the squirt by the handles and the nozzle, while a third worked a piston within it in the manner of a syringe; the aperture was held downwards in a vessel of water while the squirt was being filled; and when filled, the nozzle was directed upwards, and the stream of water directed on the burning materials by the working of the piston. Whoever has seen a common schoolboy's "squirt" will easily understand the nature of the apparatus.

There is an allusion in Dryden's "Annus Mirabilis," which might at first sight seem to apply to a common fire-engine; but it may, perhaps, considering the date of the "Annus," (1666,) relate to these large syringes, which, we are told, were greatly increased in number after the Great Fire in London, but were shortly afterwards superseded by fire engines. Dryden's stanza, descriptive of the customary usages at a fire in his day, runs thus:—

"Now streets grow throng'd, and busy as by day;
Some run for buckets to the hallow'd quire;
Some cut the pipes, and some the engines play,
And some, more bold, mount ladders to the fire."

FIRE ENGINES INVENTED IN GERMANY IN 1657.

It is to Germany that we owe the construction of the fire-engine, popularly so called. One Hautsch, a Nuremberger, constructed, in 1657, a machine, consisting of a water cistern seven or eight feet long, drawn on a kind of sledge. It had arms or levers worked by twenty or thirty men, whose exertions propelled from the machine a stream of water an inch in diameter, and, as it is said, to a height of eighty feet. Hautsch

distributed engravings of his new machine in different parts of Germany, and offered to make such engines for sale.

By the year 1672, the engines had received considerable improvements, chiefly through the ingenuity of two brothers, Van der Heyden. These persons, as Beckmann informs us, were inspectors of apparatus for extinguishing fires at Amsterdam, and invented the flexible hose or pipes, which have ever since formed part of the fittings of a fire-engine. These flexible pipes enabled the stream of water to be carried in various directions, and thus brought to bear on parts of the burning mass which could not otherwise be reached. The inventors obtained an exclusive privilege for making and using these machines for twenty-five years; and they also published a work descriptive of their new engine, in which seven plates represent fires at Amsterdam, at which the old engines, (of Hautsch probably,) were employed, and twelve at which Van der Heydens' new engines were used.

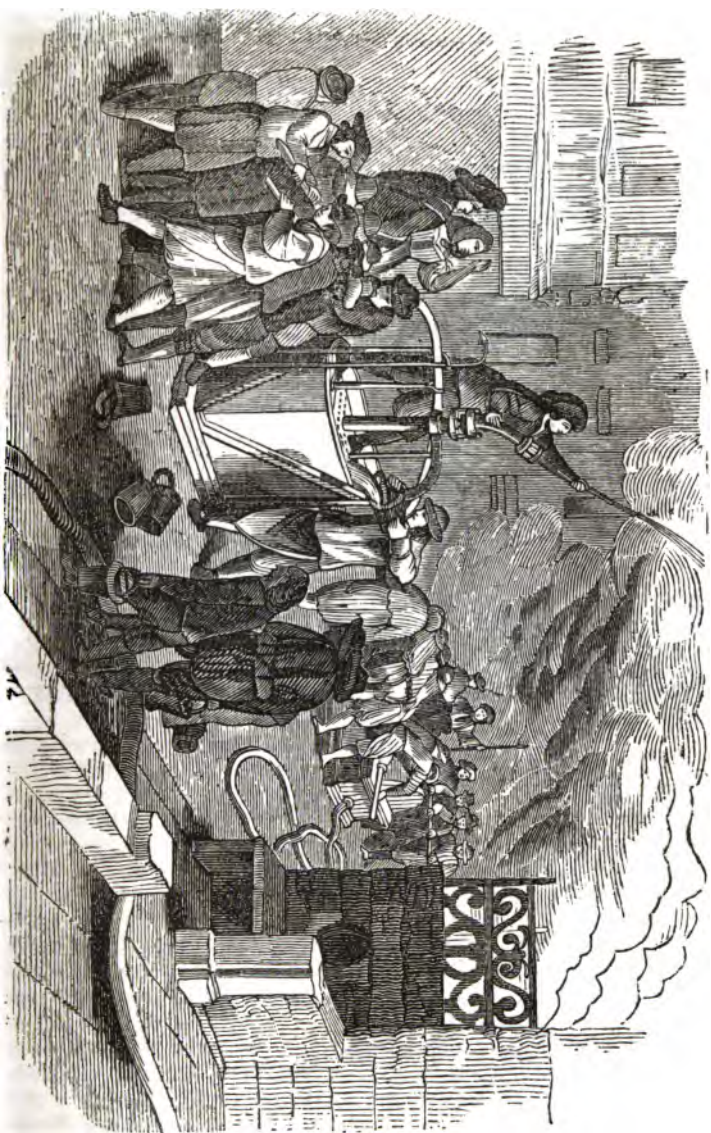
INTRODUCTION OF FIRE ENGINES INTO ENGLAND AND FRANCE.

When, or how, or by whom the fire-engines were introduced into England, has not been clearly traced; but it seems probable that we may date the introduction shortly before the conclusion of the seventeenth century. In France, too, the same date may perhaps be assumed; for we find that, in the year 1699, Louis XIV. gave an exclusive right to Dumourier Duperrier to construct certain machines called *pompes portatives*, and he was engaged, at a fixed salary, to keep in repair seventeen of them, purchased for the city of Paris, and to procure and to pay the necessary workmen. In the year 1722, the number of these engines was increased to thirty, which were distributed in different quarters of the city; and at that time the contractors received annually twenty thousand livres.

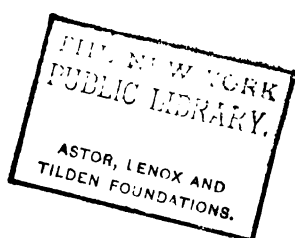
By what steps the fire-engines of the seventeenth century assumed the form presented by those of the nineteenth, and on what principles of science their action depends, are matters which must here be passed over very briefly. It was some time ere the engines possessed what is termed an "air chamber," that is, a space containing a certain quantity of air, which became compressed into a smaller space when water was contained in the engine: this compression increased the elasticity of the air, and this elasticity was, in its turn, made to contribute to the forcible ejection of the water through the hose or pipe of the engine. The men who with such alacrity lend their services at a fire, and work two long arms or levers, are doing neither more nor less than working a pump, the valves of which are so arranged as to draw water into the engine from the reservoir, pool or plug, thence into the air chamber, and thence force it with considerable velocity towards the burning materials.

FIRE POLICE SYSTEM OF LONDON IN 1668.

It may now be asked, to whom have these engines belonged, and on what system has the fire-engine establishment been regulated? That



The first fire engine, 1657.



the whole are now in the hands of Insurance Companies (with the exception of the small parish engines, and those possessed by private persons,) is pretty well known; but we must look back to the period immediately subsequent to the Great Fire for the origin of the system. In an order of the Corporation of London, 1668, the city was divided into four quarters, in respect to the suppression of fires; and the regulations enacted throw considerable light on the fire-police system of the times.

“Item, That every of the said quarters shall be furnished and provided, at or before the feast of our Lord God next ensuing, of eight hundred leathern buckets, fifty ladders, viz. ten forty-two foot long, ten thirty foot long, ten twenty foot long, ten sixteen foot long, and ten twelve foot long; as also of so many *hand-squirts* of brass as will furnish two for every parish, four-and-twenty pickaxe sledges, and forty shod-shovels.

“Item, That every one of the twelve companies provide and keep in readiness thirty buckets, one engine, six pickaxe-sledges, three ladders, and two hand-squirts of brass.

“Item, That all the other inferior companies provide and keep in readiness buckets and engines proportionable to their abilities, of which those least able, to provide portable engines to carry up-stairs into any rooms or tops of houses; the number of which buckets and engines to be from time to time prescribed and allotted by the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen’s direction.

“Item, That every alderman who hath passed the office of shrievalty provide four-and-twenty buckets and one hand-squirt of brass; and all those who have not been sheriffs, twelve buckets and one hand-squirt of brass, to be kept at their respective dwellings; and all other principal citizens and inhabitants, and every other person being a subsidy-man, or of the degree of a subsidy-man, shall provide and keep in their houses a certain number of buckets, according to their quality.”

It will thus be seen that the provisions here made were, so far as extent is concerned, by no means trifling. The buckets and the ladders are most plentifully patronized, while some kind of “engine” seems to have been employed, but whether analogous to the modern fire-engine we have no means of knowing. Besides all this, however, the corporation made an extraordinary series of regulations—so extraordinary, indeed, that we may readily doubt whether they were ever acted on. For instance, it was ordered that every householder, upon cry of “Fire,” was to place a “sufficient man” at his door, well armed, and hang out a light at his door; that every householder was to have a vessel of water at his door, in case of fire; that the several companies of carpenters, brick-layers, plasterers, painters, masons, smiths, plumbers, and paviours, should each provide thirty persons to attend on the Lord Mayor whenever a fire might occur; that all the porters and meters within the City should similarly attend; that all persons, during a fire, should keep within their houses, unless expressly sent for by the Lord Mayor; that all the brokers on the Exchange should attend, to guard the goods and merchandise; together with other and more practical arrangements, such

as the ringing of a bell at the occurrence of a fire, the patrolling of the streets by night, injunctions to the inhabitants to observe care in the management of combustible ingredients, &c.

As time wore on, and the recollection of the great devastation of 1666 became deadened, it is probable that many of these arrangements fell into disuse, and that the principal ones really maintained were those relating to the provision of fire-engines in every parish, and in the halls of the companies. When, however, the insurance companies came into prominent notice, they wrought great improvements in fire-extinguishing machinery. In a parish such matters were, to use a common phrase, "everybody's business, and therefore nobody's business;" but the pecuniary success of the insurance companies was directly involved in the speedy extinction of fires, since the farther the fires spread the greater was the liability of the companies.

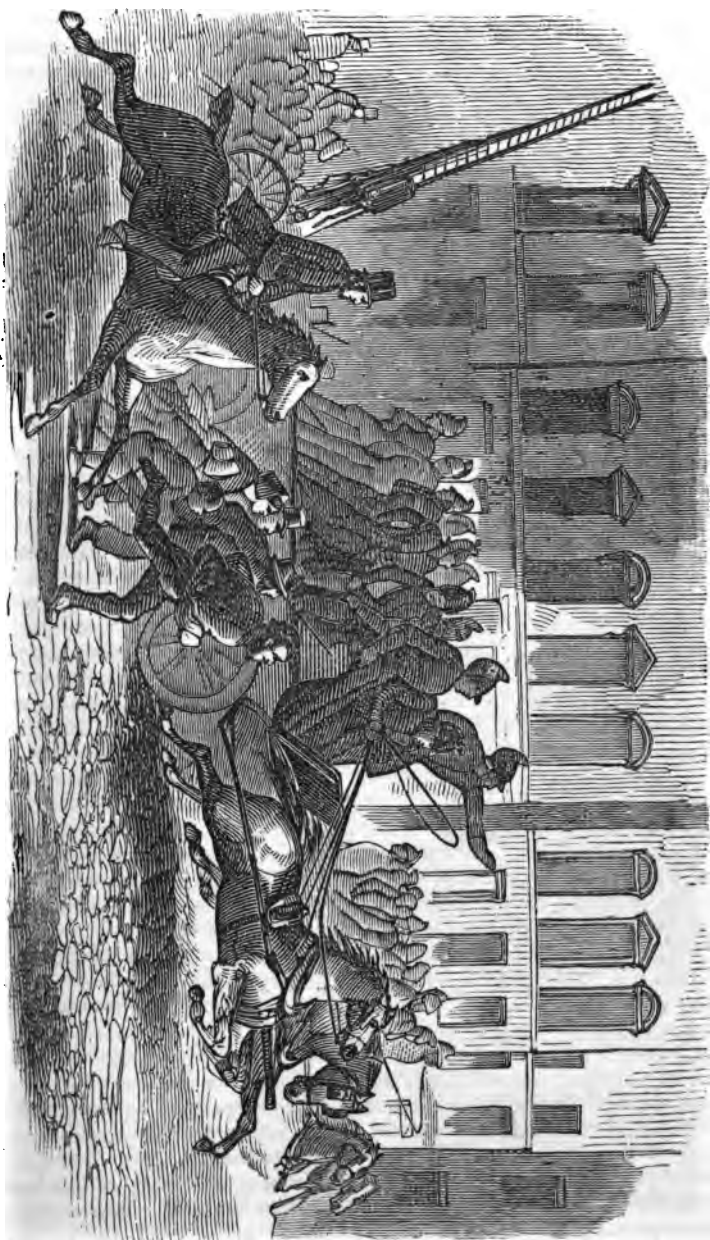
INDEPENDENT FIRE ENGINE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE LONDON INSURANCE COMPANIES.

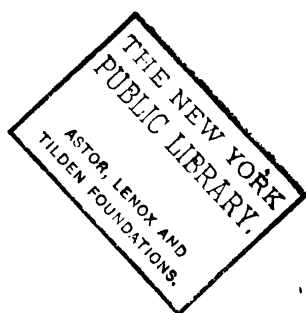
The various insurance companies had their own fire-engines, and maintained an establishment of firemen, independent of each other, until within the last few years. From a paper by Mr. Rawson, we learn that so far back as the year 1808, Sir Frederick Morton Eden, the Chairman of the Globe Insurance Office, impressed with the inefficiency and expensive character of the separate engine establishments, entered into communication with the several offices, for the purpose of inducing them to co-operate in the formation of a general fire-engine establishment. His proposition was, that each office joining the association should depute one or two members to form an engine committee, who should have control over the direction and expenditure of the establishment, but that no engine houses or stables should be purchased or built without the concurrence of all the offices interested. Each office was, at the outset, to furnish a gang of twenty firemen, of whom ten were to be first-class men, who should receive allowances for all fires they attended; and ten second-class men, who were to be paid only when specially authorized to attend. Each office was to pay an equal contribution towards the expenses of the establishment. Only one office, however, entered into the views of Sir F. Eden, and the plan accordingly fell to the ground.

Seventeen years afterwards, three of the offices, viz., the Sun, the Union, and the Royal Exchange, united their fire-engine establishments, the whole of their engines and men being placed under the charge of a superintendent. The Atlas and Phoenix companies subsequently joined this body.

At length, in the year 1833, most of the insurance companies, seeing the benefit of mutual co-operation, and the effectual working of a system which had been put in force in Edinburgh, joined in the formation of the present "London Fire-Engine Establishment." The companies were ten in number, viz., the Alliance, Atlas, Globe, Imperial, London Assurance, Protector, Royal Exchange, Sun, Union and Westminster. Subsequently five others, the British, Guardian, Hand-in-Hand, Nor-

The London Fire Brigade on their way to a fire.





wich Union, and Phoenix, joined the establishment; as did also two or three recently formed companies; and there are now but few fire offices in London not belonging to it.

The affairs of the new association were placed under the management of a committee, consisting of a director from each of the associated insurance companies, which subscribe towards its support in certain agreed proportions. London was divided into five districts, which may be briefly indicated thus:—1st. Eastward of Aldersgate Street and St. Paul's; 2nd. Thence westward to Tottenham Court Road and St. Martin's Lane; 3rd. All westward of the 2nd; 4th. South of the river, and east of Southwark Bridge; 5th. South of the river, and west of Southwark Bridge. In these five districts were established engine-stations, averaging about three to each district; at each of which was one, two, or three engines, according to the importance of the station.

Since the year 1833, various minor changes have been made, according as experience pointed out the necessity for them; and at the present time the arrangements are nearly as follows: The establishment belongs to eighteen fire insurance companies. There are fourteen stations, of which the most eastern is at Ratcliff, and the most western near Portman Square. At these stations are kept thirty-five engines, for whose management about ninety men are employed. The men are clothed in a uniform, and are selected with especial reference to their expertness and courage at fires; they are collectively known as the "Fire Brigade," and are all under the orders and direction of Mr. Braidwood, the superintendent of the establishment. A certain number of these men are ready at all hours of the day and night, and the engines are also always ready to depart at a minute's warning in case of fire. As a rule for general guidance, it is arranged that, when a fire occurs in any district, all the men and engines in that district shall repair to the spot, together with two-thirds of the men and engines from each of the two districts next adjoining to it, and one-third from each of those most removed from it; but this arrangement is liable to modification, according to the extent of a fire, or the number which may be burning at one time.

The general economy of the establishment, and the fearlessness of the brigade men, have won a large measure of praise from nearly all classes in the metropolis. If self-interest were the chief motive which led the insurance companies to the establishment of a system likely to reduce their own losses, there is any thing but selfishness in the risks which the men encounter in saving lives and property, the poor as well as the rich, the uninsured as well as the insured.

MEANS ADOPTED TO GIVE PROMPT INFORMATION ON THE OCCURRENCE OF A FIRE—FALSE ALARMS, ETC.

It has been often supposed that there are observatories on the roofs of the insurance offices or engine houses, where watchmen are posted at all hours of the night, to detect the appearance of fire, and to give notice to those below. This, if ever acted upon, is not observed by the fire-engine establishment. There is an arrangement made by the police commis-

sioners, that a policeman, on observing a fire, communicates instantly to the nearest engine station ; and for so doing the association gives him a gratuity of ten shillings. This, and a smaller gratuity to other persons who "call an engine," is found sufficient to command prompt information on the occurrence of a fire. It is true that the lovers of mischief so far show their silliness as to give "false alarms," to an average extent of some sixty or seventy per annum ; and that the brigade men are sometimes tantalized by atmospherical phenomena. It has often happened, in reference to the latter point, that an *aurora borealis* has so deceived the beholders, as to lead to the impression that a great conflagration has broken out ; in such case the engines are sent for precipitately, and all is in commotion. Two remarkable instances of this occurred a few years ago. On the first of these, twelve engines and seventy-four brigade men were kept in constant motion from eleven in the evening till six the next morning, in endeavoring to search out what appeared to be a large conflagration ; some of the engines reached Hampstead, and others Kilburn, before it was found that the glare was the effect of the "northern lights." On the other occasion, a crimson glare of light arose at the north-east part of the horizon, at about eight o'clock in the evening, seemingly caused by a fierce conflagration ; and the resemblance was increased by what appeared to be clouds of smoke rising up after the glare, and breaking and rolling away beneath it. Thirteen engines and a large body of men went in search of the supposed fire, and did not detect their error till they had proceeded far to the north-east. Subsequent accounts showed that the military and fire-patroles at Dublin, Leyden, Utrecht, Strasburg, Troyes, Rennes and Nantes, had been similarly deceived by the atmospherical phenomena on the same night.

When, however, it is really a conflagration to which the attention of the brigade is called, there is an admirable coolness and system displayed in the whole proceedings. The water companies, by clauses in the Acts of Parliament regulating their foundation, are bound to furnish water freely in case of fire ; and the hose or suction-pipe of every engine is speedily placed in connection with the temporary pool of water derived from the street-plug. Then is observable a singular instance of the confidence which the firemen have that they shall obtain the aid of bystanders, for the firemen belonging to each engine are wholly insufficient to work it. The director or captain of each engine is empowered by the companies to pay for the services of as many strangers as he may need. It requires from twenty to thirty men to work each engine ; and so extensive is the service thus rendered, that, at one of the large fires a few years ago, more than five hundred temporary hands were thus engaged.

While the supernumeraries are thus engaged with the engines, the brigade men are directing the stream of water on the destructive element which they have to combat. Clothed in a neat and compact dress, with a stout leathern helmet to protect the head, they face the fiercest heat, alternately drenched with water from the pipes of the various engines, and half scorched by the flaming materials, braving alike the fire itself and the dangers attendant on falling ruins.

FIRE ESCAPES.

Fire Escapes.



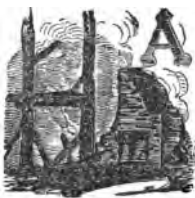
A Family saved by the Royal Society's Escape Ladder.

It is a subject for melancholy reflection that many lives are yearly lost at fires; and every one must be aware how great have been the efforts made within a few years to lessen the number, by providing "Escapes" for the inhabitants of a burning house. In the city of London alone, during the five years ending with 1837, fifty-seven persons were burned to death, showing an average of eleven per annum.

The fire-escapes constructed within a few years, and submitted to public inspection, are almost innumerable ; some being calculated to be used by the individual himself in escaping, and others by the assistance of persons from without. The Society of Arts has given numerous premiums to ingenious persons for the construction of machines having the desired object in view. Sometimes the machine consisted of a series of ladders, sliding—telescope fashion—into one another, and supported by a platform beneath ; sometimes a car, in which the person was to take his seat, and was to be lowered down a ladder by means of pulleys ; sometimes a chair or settee was so constructed that, when a person got into it from a window, the chair would gently descend to the ground. In one case a premium was paid for a kind of rope ladder, of which the rounds were so made as to be fitted to each other longitudinally, and elevated from the street in the form of a long straight rod, but without being detached from the ropes forming the two sides of the ladder ; two hooks at the top of the apparatus were to be fastened to the window-sill ; while a jerk at the bottom unfixed all the rounds from their vertical position, and allowed them to fall into their proper places.

But it is surprising—or rather perhaps it is *not* surprising—how few lives have been saved by any of these contrivances. The truth is, that most such require too much adjustment at the critical moment when their services are wanted ; either they are in the hands and under the management of those who are too much agitated to do them justice, or they have to be brought from a distance, and to undergo a long process of adjustment.

The Russian Firemen and the New York Firemen.



FIRE which broke out in an upper story of a house in Leonard street, New York, April 11, 1850, occupied by a Mr. Stoddard, is worthy of mention on account of an incident connected with it. A Russian living in the same street, got out of bed when he heard the alarm of fire, and to his great astonishment, before the last stroke of the first alarm of the bell had sounded, a fire engine was actually at work. He could not help contrasting this, and the rapidity with which the flames were extinguished, with a fire that he once witnessed in the Russian palace—the Neva. In the palace there is a fire brigade, with a colonel and other officers, like a military corps, whose sole business it is to attend to fires in the palace. They had an opportunity on the occasion referred to, and before they were at work, there were two buildings burned to the ground. So much for the difference between the voluntary efforts of firemen, who work for glory and honor, and the reluctant performances of serfs, who merely do a tyrant's bidding.

Memoranda of Early Fires in Boston.



WE give in the following chapter some account of the fires which occurred in Boston during the early part of the eighteenth century. We have spent no little time in examining the early records, and think our minutes very nearly correct, and believe that the numerous readers of our Book, especially those of antiquarian taste, will appreciate the quaintness of expression which characterizes many of the items.

1702. *March 11.*—The seventh great fire, so called, happened at this date, near the Dock. Three ware-houses were blown up to stop its progress. The destruction of property was so extensive, as to be mentioned in official papers “as a great loss to the town.”

1711. *Oct. 2.*—The prosperity of Boston, which seemed now to be growing rapidly, received a check this year by a fire, that broke out on the evening of Tuesday, October 2d, about 7 o'clock. It originated in a building belonging to Capt. Ephraim Savage, in Williams Court, from the carelessness of a poor woman, one Mary Morse, who suffered the fire “to catch the oakum, which she was employed in picking of.” All the houses on both sides of Cornhill, from School street to Dock square, were laid in ruins. The wind being southerly, the meeting-house of the First Church (on the site now occupied by Joy's Building) was early found to be in danger, and some sailors went up into the steeple or cupola to save the bell. Whilst they were engaged in this service, the house was on fire below, and the stairs were consumed. They were seen at work just before the roof fell in, and all perished in the flames. All the upper part of King street, (now called State street,) together with the Town House, was lost, and some desolation made in Pudding lane (Devonshire street), and between Water street and Spring lane, before the violence of the flames could be conquered. There were then but two engines in the town, and the method taken to stop the progress of the fire, by blowing up the houses, had a contrary effect, and served to scatter it. The number of houses destroyed was about a hundred, and, by the best account, about a hundred and ten families were turned out of doors. It being also a place of much trade, and filled with well-furnished shops of goods, not a little of the wealth of the town was now consumed. The rubbish from the ruins was used to fill up the Long wharf. The houses which were built after this fire “were of brick, three stories high, with a garret, a flat roof, and balustrade.” [The Church was rebuilt of brick, three stories in height, and ready for use, May 3, 1713. This being the first Congregational meeting-house built of brick, obtained in time the name of the *Old Brick*. It stood till the year 1808, when the Chauncy place church was erected, where the society continued to worship.]

The General Court, at their next session after the above-mentioned fire,

lemnities." [This fixes the date of the erection of that house to the year 1645 or 1646, about fifteen years after the first settlement of the town. See Hist. Col. for 1795, page 189].

Page 19. "I could not pass the honorable rubbish of that building without making this reflection: That the HOLY ONE seems to put us in mind of that *shameful negligence* with which too many people in this town treated the weekly lecture there. It was not attended as it ought to have been." [This proves that complaints of non-attendance on Thursday lecture are not peculiar to the present generation, and perhaps not to the present century. "Say not thou, what is the cause that the former days were better than these? for thou dost not inquire wisely concerning this." Eccl. vii. 10.]

Page 27. "We think, with a shuddering horror, on the fate of the poor men who lost their lives in the fire, the night before last. Most of them, no doubt, by the blowing up and falling down of houses.—They were mostly young men that were lost in the fire."

Page 31. "It is reported, that when a consuming fire is raging, there are *thieves*, who take that horrible occasion to seize and steal and keep the goods that are saved out of the fire. The vilest sort of thieves that ever were heard of! O monstrous wretches! Monsters of wickedness! You may marvel at the long-suffering of God, that he does not, even by fire from heaven, lay those accursed *cottages* in ashes, which have in them the goods that God spared out of the fire, but which your thievish hands would not spare to the owners. God will never let you be one farthing the richer for stolen goods. I charge you, in the name of God, to make restitution immediately. If you have not a heart willing to make restitution, the holy God will never forgive your wickedness." [A very good exhortation, if the thieves had been there to hear it! But it may be presumed, with great probability, that this class of people were not less guilty than others of the "*shameful negligence*" above mentioned.]

1713. *Feb.* 28.—A fire broke out in Back street, and burnt down "Mr. Blunt, tallow chandler, his work-house."

1714. *Oct.* 14.—Two houses in Boston were destroyed by fire, but no particulars are given.

1722. *Jan.* 8.—A fire broke out on Long wharf, by which three warehouses were consumed, and others damaged and pulled down. The loss computed at £7000 current money.

Feb. 20.—A small building belonging to Penn Townsend, Esq., was burnt.

Feb. 23.—Mr. John Checkley's house, in Cornhill, opposite the Town House, caught fire; and though it threatened much, but little damage was sustained.

1723. *April* 2.—A fire in Boston early in the morning of this day, at Mr. Powell's house, in Quaker lane, near the Friends' meeting

house, which was consumed. A negro servant in the family confessed he set it on fire, and suffered death.

In this month Mr. Cooke's buildings, at the lower end of King street, took fire, and four or five tenements were consumed.

1724. *Jan. 31.*—This morning a fire broke out in a warehouse on Clarke's wharf, at the north part of Boston, which consumed the building, and damaged the rigging of several vessels in the docks near it.

1724.—*April 13.*—A fire in Mr. Dering's barn, by which much hay was destroyed.

1724. *Aug. 10.*—About 7 o'clock this evening, a fire broke out in a large warehouse near Oliver's Dock, which consumed it. A blacksmith's shop and other buildings near were demolished, to prevent its spreading; which by favor of the wind, activity of the people, and advantage of the engines, the fire was suppressed in a little time; though the loss is very considerable, and divers persons were much hurt.

1731. *Jan. 27.*—On Friday last, two children being left alone in a house near Scarlett wharf, at the North End, and some shavings being in the house, the children took the same and laid them on the fire, by which one of the children was burnt to that degree that it dy'd in a few hours after.

1731. *Feb. 2.*—A butcher's shop on Fish street caught fire about 3 o'clock on Sunday morning, which caused three or four families in the neighborhood to abandon their dwellings.

1734. *Jan. 30.*—Mr. Green's printing office in Boston was burnt down in the night.

1735. *Nov. 12.*—This day we were twice alarmed at the south end of the town with the cry of fire; and by reason of the exceeding high wind that blew, many were put into a great surprise. The first was occasioned by an accident somewhat singular and remarkable. About one o'clock a pretty high chimney being on fire, a spark blew therefrom, and entered into the open mouth of one of the carved lions couchant upon the top of the brick wall of the house which was the late Col. Dyer's, about one hundred feet distant from the chimney, on the other side of the street. By the force of the wind, the fire soon enkindled, and the mouth of the wooden beast discharging smoke and fire, it was presently discovered, and his head being struck off at one or two blows, tumbled into the street all in a flame, and broke to pieces, and so further damage was seasonably prevented. — The second cry of fire was about three o'clock, when a large new house near the Common, nearly finished, narrowly escaped being consumed; a fire being left burning in the chimney, it catch'd some shavings on the floor, and sat the room all on a flame, but was discovered just time enough to put it out.

1736. *May 13.*—About 12 o'clock at night, a fire broke out in a large bake-house near Fort Hill, belonging, to Mr. Brattle Oliver, which in a very little time had consumed the same, together with two dwelling

houses belonging to the widow Sanders, and two or three shops. The whole street was in the utmost danger, the houses being built of wood, and pretty close together; but by the diligence of the people in pulling down a joiner's shop between the fire and a large dwelling house, and the good management of the engines, which were well supplied with water, the tide being up, the fire was prevented from spreading any further. Besides the buildings and furniture, there was lost a great quantity of bread, meal and flour, estimated at several thousand pounds.

1736. *April 6.*—About 2 o'clock in the morning a fire broke out in Capt. Tyng's warehouse, which did much damage to the same; and sundry goods therein, to a considerable value, were burnt. A stop was put to it by the great vigilancy of those that assisted on this occasion.

1737. *March.*—This month a fire caught in Union Street, about 4 o'clock, A. M., in the neighborhood of the Blue Ball, a tallow chandler's shop, kept by Benj. Franklin's father, which threatened great damage.

1738. *Jan. 6.*—Fire broke out in a cellar under the dwelling house of Benj. Hallowell, ship-carpenter, in this town; but timely assistance coming, the house was saved, though considerably damaged.

1738. *Jan. 19.* "Last week several negroes having appointed a rendezvous for a merry frolic, in order to which some provided fowls, some bread, others rum, and others sugar, &c., and according to agreement they met in a warehouse on Wentworth's wharf, to regale themselves; and being about dressing the fowls upon a stove wherein was a pretty good fire, the funnel being foul took fire about two o'clock in the morning, by which accident the top of the warehouse caught on fire; whereupon the negroes being much surprised ran out and threw their fowls and other stores over the wharf, to prevent discovery; but the fire being perceived by the neighbors, it was happily extinguished by the help of a long ladder, which that very same day was sent by some person at the Eastward to sell, otherwise the whole range of warehouses would have been consumed: nevertheless, the negroes were apprehended, and were sent to Bridewell, where they received suitable correction."

1738. *Nov. 7.*—Last Tuesday morning, a fire broke out in a joiner's shop in the north part of the town, which soon consumed it: but the buildings near the same were preserved.

1739. *Feb. 8.*—"Last Tuesday the firewards of the town discovered six half-barrels of gunpowder, which were concealed and kept for sale at the north part of the town, contrary to the good and wholesome laws of this Province."

1739. *Dec. 19.*—"Whereas a house belonging to the town of Boston, situated on Fort Hill, was wilfully set on fire and burnt down on the 17th inst., in the evening:—These are to give notice that whosoever shall inform the selectmen of the said town, of the person or persons that did set fire to the said house, so that he or they may be lawfully convicted of the same, shall be entitled to and receive out of the town treasury the sum of ten pounds."

Destruction of a Theatre at Havre, April 29, 1843, and the Manager's Life lost.



On the morning of April 29, 1843, the theatre at Havre, (France,) was destroyed by fire, and Mons. Fortier, the manager, unfortunately lost his life by the accident. The following account of the sad affair is narrated in a letter dated Havre, the same day.

“At about half past one this morning, some persons were attracted to the Place du Spectacle by cries of distress proceeding from the apartments of the manager in the upper part of the theatre. The night was dark, and no sign of danger was apparent; but M. Fortier, the manager, was heard, exclaiming that the theatre was on fire, and imploring assistance. Some of the persons who had arrived at the spot ran for the engines; others called to M. Fortier to save himself. He replied, ‘My dear friends, it is not the engines that will be of immediate use, but a ladder, for I am suffocating; the smoke is gaining rapidly upon me; run to the scene-room, where you will find ladders.’

“At this moment the smoke was seen forcing its way through the roof of the theatre. Some persons ran to the scene-room at the back of the theatre, and obtained ladders, but time had been lost in searching for the keys. The ladders were placed in front of the theatre, but unfortunately they were so short as scarcely to reach the windows of the saloon. Whilst this was going on, M. Fortier got out of his window, and his female servant, who was the only resident in the building besides himself, took his place at it. He held by the ridge of the attic, and with seeming calmness awaited relief. When asked by the persons below how he proposed to escape from his perilous position, he suddenly exclaimed, ‘I can bear it no longer, I am suffocating; it is useless, my friends; I burn and must throw myself off;’ and at the same moment he jumped to the ground from the height of twenty metres (more than sixty feet.) He came upon the pavement on his feet, but immediately fell senseless. He still breathed, and would perhaps have recovered, if, by a deplorable fatality, the servant, on seeing the desperate act of her master, had not followed the example, and fallen upon his body. When taken up he was a corpse. The servant, who was still alive, was taken to the hospital in a senseless state. She had one of her legs broken, and received other injuries.

“Whilst this tragic scene was taking place in presence of the few persons on the spot, and of the inhabitants of the neighboring houses, who, being disturbed, had risen from their beds, the fire was gaining ground, and immense columns of smoke were rising in the air. The drums now

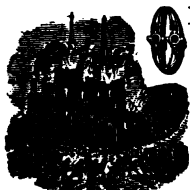
beat, the tocsin was sounded, and from all parts the inhabitants rushed to the scene of the disaster. The seamen of the *Expeditive* were amongst the first who came. It was soon ascertained, however, that there was no chance of saving the theatre, and that all that could be done was to prevent the extension of the fire to the adjoining buildings and this splendid quarter of the town. It was now half past two; the flames had become visible, and were forcing their way through all the windows of the theatre. The wind was to the south-east, and blew the flames directly towards the houses, which are only separated from the theatre by the Rue Corneille. It was on this point that the engines played, and happily with success.

"At half past three the whole of the interior of the theatre was a vast furnace, and a loud explosion announced that the gas pipes had burst. A portion of the roof now began to give way, and the flames, finding an issue through it, rushed forth in an enormous body, scattering burning fragments to a great distance. Some fell on the roofs and into the garrets of houses, and others even on the Quai d'Orleans. The danger was now become imminent for the vessels moored on the east of the Bassin du Roi, and an order was given them to remove. Towards four o'clock the whole of the roof fell in. A loud cracking of the building was heard, and the streets were blocked up with portions of the frieze and entablature. At daybreak all danger to the surrounding buildings was at an end, but the fire continued to rise at the theatre.

"While we are writing it is still burning, and consuming the portions which had remained intact. Nothing remains but the four walls and the facade, with the calcined dial of the new clock. Measures have been taken to maintain order and prevent accidents. The crowd is kept at a distance, and the engines are kept on the spot, ready for renewed action in the event of their being required. The cause of the fire is not yet known. It is presumed that it had its origin under the stage, where the attendance of machinists had been rendered necessary by the performance of *Robert le Diable*. The first alarm was given by a young man to the porter, by whom it was communicated to M. Fortier, who, retaining all his *sang froid*, roused his servant, and, before he attempted to escape, put on some articles of dress, and secured some papers. But the alarm was given too late; all the issues from the theatre were blocked up by flames and smoke, and M. Fortier was compelled to return to his apartments, in the hope of saving himself by the exterior.

"M. Fortier was a clever actor, and an intelligent and generous man. He is universally regretted, and the regret is the more painful on account of the horrible nature of his death. The theatre was opened for the first time on the 22d August, 1823. The building of it, imperfect as it was, is estimated to have cost the town 1,600,000 fr. It was not insured. In consequence of this sad event, the rejoicings for the King's fete were suspended by an order of the mayor."

Burning of the Exchange Coffee House, Boston, Nov. 3, 1818.



ON Tuesday evening, Nov. 3, 1818, between 6 and 7 o'clock, fire was discovered in the upper story of that magnificent edifice, the Boston Exchange Coffee House. The fire first broke out from the south-west corner of the seventh story. Although there were various rumors respecting its origin, the fact was never satisfactorily known, yet it is generally supposed to have caught from a defect in the chimney, and that the rapidity with which it spread, was owing to the fact that the workmen, in order to get rid of large quantities of shavings, stuffed them under the floors and inside the ceilings, while building the edifice.

The fire soon communicated to the roof, and from the immense height of the pile, being two or three stories above the loftiest building in the neighborhood, it was impossible to reach the flames by the fire apparatus in use at that time, so that in about half an hour the entire building was on fire. There was a slight wind from the south-west, which drove the flames and burning cinders towards the lower part of State Street. All the neighboring buildings were of course exposed, from the moment that the fire broke out from the roof and windows. The exertions of the firemen and every class of citizens were immediately conspicuous in every direction, and the fire was speedily extinguished wherever it caught, except in the immediate vicinity of the walls.

The dome and roof of the Coffee House fell in about 9 o'clock, and some time after the north wall and part of the south fell, together with nearly all of the inner wall which surrounded the area. Before 12 o'clock the whole building, together with the building annexed to it on Devonshire street, including the four story building belonging to Maj. Prince, was consumed.

The buildings on Congress street, opposite the front of the Coffee House, were on fire for an hour or two, and in consequence of the height of the wall opposite and the narrowness of the street, it seemed impossible to save them; yet so constant and abundant was the application of water, that they were little burnt, except part of the roofs. The buildings on the north side of the Coffee House, between it and State street, were somewhat injured by the falling of the wall, but very little by fire.

The Exchange Coffee House covered 12,753 feet of ground, measured 84 feet on the east front, and 132 on the north, and was seven stories high. The principal floor was one story from the ground, and from this to the dome, which covered the centre of the building, was 83 feet. A large part of the north wall fell outward during the fire, and after striking the top of Rogers' Building, crumbled down between it and the base of the wall. The north-east corner, extending to the first row of win-

dows on the front and on the north, fell upon the south end of Suffolk building, without doing any great injury.

From the immediate proximity of the various printing offices, they were almost all in imminent danger, not only from the falling of the huge walls, but from the intense heat. Nearly all of them suffered more or less. The larger part of the northerly wall being immediately opposite the Patriot office, and within twenty feet of it, fell and grazed the corner of it, and the printing materials were removed in great confusion by the citizens.

The front wall on Congress street remained standing, by which the offices of the Daily Advertiser, Nathan Hale, in the Suffolk building; the Palladium, Young & Minns, the large book printing office and bindery of Wells & Lilly, the watchmaker's shop of Mr. Bond, all in Young & Minns's building; the Columbian Centinel, Benjamin Russell, and the Boston Gazette, Russell & Cutler, in Spear's Building; the Repertory, Dr. Parks; Recorder, N. Willis; Messenger, Intelligencer, and some job offices, as well as other places of business, were preserved, yet more or less injured by the intense heat.

The printing office of Mr. Ezra Lincoln was destroyed. The offices of the Galaxy, J. T. Buckingham, and the Yankee, True & Rowe, were the only ones that escaped uninjured. The wine store of Merriam & Brigham, in the basement of the Suffolk building, had a very narrow escape, the door having been broken open by the falling wall.

The front wall was considerably warped during the fire from its erect position towards the street, but as it cooled, it resumed its upright attitude, and remained entirely unsupported. Part of each of the outward walls, and several parts of the interior wall, also remained, giving a fanciful aspect to the immense ruin. The pulling down of the walls after the fire, was a work of great difficulty and danger; it was however accomplished by placing long beams from the street to a part of the walls a little above the centre, to prevent any part of them from falling upon the opposite buildings. A cable was then passed round a part of the wall, properly secured, and by means of pulleys the resistance was easily overcome. The fall of the front wall particularly was a sublime spectacle. They were all brought to the ground in succession without any accident.

Although the wind was very light, the coals and cinders were carried to a great distance. Burning coals fell at a distance of more than a quarter of a mile, and buildings and ships were in danger of taking fire at a much greater distance.

The Coffee House was owned by a company in 400 shares, who held by purchase from the original proprietor. It was built at a cost of nearly half a million dollars, and was the cause of the failure of the Berkshire Bank, at Pittsfield, and the Farmers' Exchange Bank, at Cumberland, R. I. The failure of these banks caused a good deal of distress among individuals in Boston and elsewhere. Mr. Barnum, after the destruction of the Exchange, kept the City Hotel in Baltimore, a great number of years, with entire satisfaction to the public.

This building occupied the site of the present Exchange Coffee House, Congress Square, and the streets in the rear and to the south of it, extending from Congress to Devonshire streets. It was the largest public house, and one of the most elegant buildings at that time in the United States. Henry Clay, of Kentucky, was a lodger in the house at the time, and worked like a hero in passing water in buckets all night. He was seen by a gentleman of Boston, now doing business in Congress street, who assisted him in removing his trunk to his house, which stood where Simpson's stove store now stands, where he had quarters till he was removed to the residence of Mr. George Blake, in Summer street.

The scene was a terrible one, and called to the neighborhood an immense mass of people, who could do nothing to check the destroyer. When the great dome fell in, the spectacle was awfully sublime. A volume of flame shot up to such a height that it was distinctly seen in Portsmouth, N. H., a distance of 60 miles. Previous to the pulling down of the immense walls, it is said the ruins bore some resemblance to the Capitol at Washington after its destruction by the British army.

Fourth Great Fire at San Francisco, Sept. 17, 1850. 140 Buildings burnt.

THE FOURTH great conflagration at San Francisco occurred on the 17th of September, 1850, and destroyed about 140 buildings. It originated in a house on Jackson street, between Kearney and Dupont streets, and extended up towards Dupont street and Portsmouth Square. The buildings were mostly of wood, and the flames spread rapidly, owing to the scarcity of water.

The fire was cut off towards Montgomery street, thereby saving the most valuable part of the city. The City Hall, though in imminent danger, escaped. It is thought the great destruction of property might have been prevented, had there been an engineer to direct operations. By blowing up a few of the buildings, the loss would have been far less. The fire is supposed to have been the work of an incendiary.

The office of the Pacific News was entirely destroyed; loss \$30,000. The Picayune office lost heavily. Signor Rossi, of the Italian Theatre, lost every thing.

The following are the streets burned:—On Washington, half the block between Kearney and Dupont, and half the block between Kearney and Montgomery. On Jackson street, from Dupont nearly to Montgomery, on both sides; on Pacific street, both sides, from Dupont to Montgomery; Dupont street, from Jackson to Montgomery; Kearney street, from Washington to Pacific. A very large portion of the blocks bounded by Kearney, Washington, Montgomery and Pacific streets, were also destroyed.

With the exception of the "Verandah," corner of Washington and

Kearney streets, and an unfinished building corner of Kearney and Pacific streets, the whole row on the east side of Kearney, between Washington and Pacific streets, was destroyed. On Washington street below the Verandah, four more buildings were burned, when the fire was stayed by pulling down a wooden house. The Verandah was saved almost miraculously. Nearly all its windows were on fire, and the flame seemed to cling and twist around it with irresistible violence. Its interior was much damaged. Nothing but its thick brick walls saved it from entire destruction. The Parker House, not yet quite covered in, was in much danger, but good management saved it.

A party of marines under the command of Capt. Keyes, did effective service, as also Capt. Chase with his company of soldiers from the Presidio.

A gentleman who was an eye-witness of the fire, thus writes :—" Fortunately there was but little wind, or the whole city would again have been swept. Some one hundred to one hundred and fifty buildings have been burnt, destroying property to the amount of \$500,000. The loss will principally fall on persons belonging here. This fire has been predicted for some time. Since the last great fire a large number of wooden buildings have been hastily put up, and to save time, the walls and ceilings, instead of being plastered, have been covered with cotton cloth and then papered. As the weather is exceedingly dry, this material is nothing more nor less than so much tinder; and from the quantity of cigars carelessly thrown round, and lamps set down in close proximity, these walls are sure to get on fire; and the only wonder is that we have escaped as long as we have. The burnt district looks very gloomy, and Portsmouth Square is filled with furniture, pictures, and property of all descriptions, and looks exceedingly picturesque. Indians, Mexicans, Chinese, Arabs, Yankees and English are each seen in groups watching their effects, which being of a varied and curiously assorted mass, present quite an unique appearance."

EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM A BOSTON FIREMAN.

A former member of the Boston Fire Department thus writes :—" I thought I had seen hot and large fires at home, but those we have here beat them all. It requires but a short time for a fire to burn up half the city. We have a fire department at San Francisco, but all go on their own hook, and do pretty much as they please. When at a fire, if they cannot have just such a berth as they want, they will stand and see the fire burn. Most of our engines are from New York; three are from Baltimore; one from Liverpool; and one is of Hunneman's make, the "Howard," recently belonging to the Boston fire department, and is in high repute out here. At the September fire she drafted and played through three hundred feet of hose, with great success. She is the best Hunneman tub I ever saw, and has over a hundred members for her company, all Boston boys, and some of our wealthiest merchants belong to the company. Frank Whitney, an old Boston fireman, has been nominated for chief engineer, and will probably be elected. The salary is six thousand dollars per annum."



Steam Fire Engine.

OR the information of many persons who have made inquiries in regard to the practical working of the STEAM FIRE ENGINE, and expressed a wish that the FIREMAN'S OWN BOOK might contain an account of the machine, we give place to a somewhat lengthy description of the same, illustrated with correct engravings, which will make it more easily understood.

The alarming frequency and extent of conflagrations in the city of New York, during the winter of 1839-'40, caused the attention of the citizens generally, and of the different insurance companies in particular, to be turned to the subject of adopting more efficient measures for extinguishing fires, than the city possessed. The untiring efforts of the well-organized and efficient fire department, were thought to be insufficient to perform the arduous duties required of them, and general alarm pervaded the community. At this juncture, the Mechanics' Institute of that city very opportunely directed its efforts for the promotion of the public good, by offering the gold medal of the Institute—the highest honor within its gift—as a reward for the best method of applying steam to the fire-engine. Several plans were submitted, and, after a thorough and patient investigation of their several merits, by the Committee on Arts and Sciences, of the Institute, the token of excellence was awarded to Captain J. Ericsson, one of the most celebrated of European engineers, then on a visit to this country. Of this engine, the committee in their printed report remark :—

The points of excellence as thus narrowed down were found to belong in a superior degree to an engine weighing less than $2\frac{1}{2}$ tons, that with the lowest estimated speed has a power of 108 men, and will throw 3000 lbs. of water per minute to a height of 105 feet, through a nozzle of $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch diameter. By increasing the speed to the greatest limit easily and safely attainable, the quantity of water thrown may be much augmented.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS.

FIGURE 1—Side view of the steam fire engine complete.

FIGURE 2—Represents the longitudinal section of the boiler, steam engine, pump, air-vessel, and blowing apparatus, through the centre line.

FIGURE 3—Plan or top view of the engine; air-vessel, slide-box of steam-cylinder and induction pipe supposed to be removed.

FIGURE 4—Transverse section of the boiler, through the furnace and steam-chamber.

FIGURE 5—Lever or handle for working the blowing apparatus by manual labor.

Similar letters of reference will be used to denote similar parts in all of the figures.

A—Double acting force-pump, cast of gun metal, firmly secured to the carriage frame by four strong brackets cast. *a, a*. Suction-valves. *a', a'*. Suction passages leading to the cylinder. *a''*. Chamber containing the suction-valves, and to which chamber are connected *a'''*, *a'''*. Suction pipes to which the hose is attached by screws in the usual manner, and which may be closed by the ordinary screw cap. The delivering valves and passages at the top of the cylinder are similar to those just described, but the valve-chamber communicates directly with

B—Air-vessel of a globular form, made of copper. *b, b*. Delivery pipes to which the pressure hose is attached. When only one jet is required, the opposite pipe may be closed by a screw-cap, as usual. The piston or bucket of the force-pump to be provided with double leather packing; the piston-rod to be made of copper; the gland and stuffing box to be made of brass.

C—Boiler, constructed on the principle of the ordinary locomotive boiler, and containing 27 tubes of 1½ inch diameter. The top of the steam chamber and the horizontal part of the boiler to be covered with wood, to prevent the radiation of heat.—*c*. Fire door.—*c'*. Ash pan, consisting of a square box attached below the furnace, and having a small door in front.—*c''*. Square box attached to the end of the boiler, enclosing the exit of the tubes. The hot air from the tubes received by this box is passed off through—*c'''*. Smoke pipe, carried up through either of the spaces D, making a half-spiral turn round the air vessel, and terminating in the form of a serpent or a dragon, to avoid the unsightly appearance of an abrupt vertical termination.—*c⁴*. Brackets of wrought iron, riveted to the upright part of the boiler, and bolted to the carriage frame.—*c⁵*. Wrought iron stay, also bolted to the carriage frame, for supporting the horizontal part of the boiler.

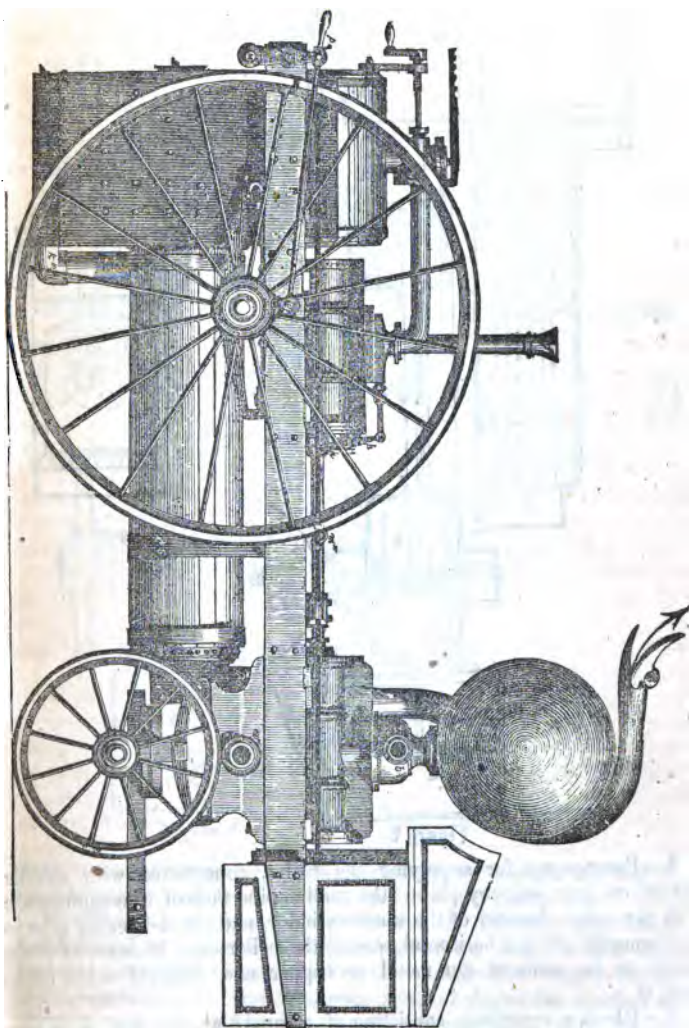
E—Cylindrical box attached to the top of the steam chamber, containing—*e*. Conical steam valve, and also—*e'*. Safety valve.—*e''*. Screw with handle connected to the steam valve for admitting or shutting off the steam.—*e'''*. Induction pipe, for conveying the steam to

F—Steam cylinder, provided with steam passages and slide valve, of the usual construction, and secured to the carriage frame in similar manner to the force pump.—*f*. Eduction pipe, for carrying off the steam into the atmosphere.—*f'*. Piston, provided with metallic packing (on Barton's plan).—*f''*. Piston rod of steel, attached to the piston rod of the force pump by means of

G—Crosshead of wrought iron, into which both piston rods are inserted and secured by keys.—*g*. Tappet-rod attached to the crosshead for moving the slide-valve of the steam cylinder by means of—*g'*, *g'*. Nuts which may be placed at any position on the tappet-rod.

H—Spindle of wrought iron, working in two bearings attached to the cover of the steam cylinder, the one end thereof having fixed to it—*h*. Lever, moved or struck ultimately by the nuts *g'*, *g'*.—*h'*. Lever, fixed to the middle part of the spindle H, for moving the steam valve rod.

Capt. Ericsson's Steam Fire Engine.



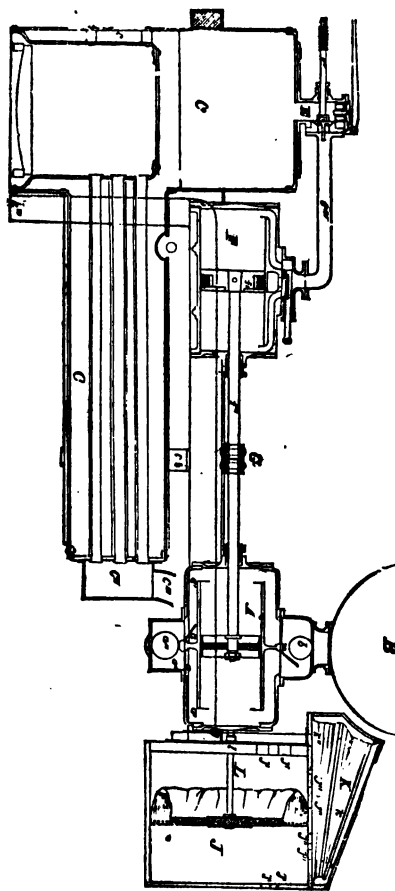


Figure 2.

I—Force-pump for supplying the boiler, constructed with spindle valves on the ordinary plan; the suction-pipe thereof to communicate with the valve chamber of the water cylinder, and the delivering pipe to be connected to the horizontal part of the boiler.—*i*. Plunger of force-pump, to be made of gun-metal or copper, and attached to the cross-head G.

J—Blowing apparatus, consisting of a square wooden box, with panelled sides, in which is made to work—*j*. Square piston, made of wood, joined to the sides of said box by leather.—*j'*. Circular holes or openings through the sides, for admitting atmospheric air into the box; these holes being covered on the inside by pieces of leather or India rubber

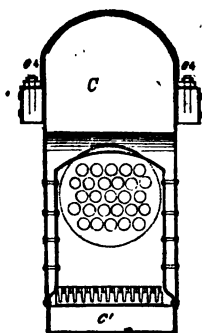


Figure 4.

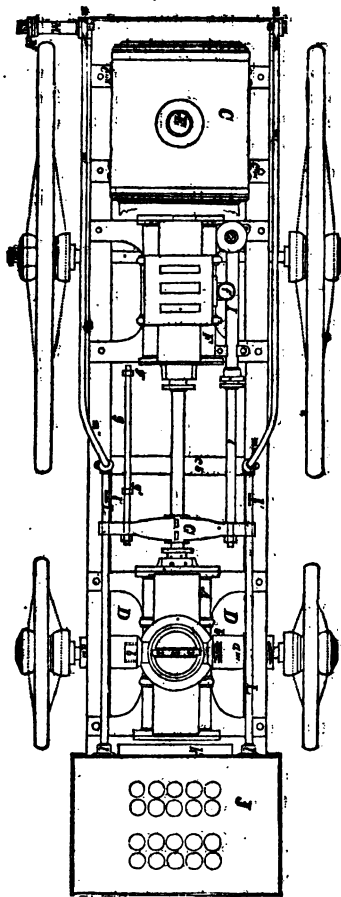


Figure 3

cloth to act as valves.—*j''*. Are similar holes through the top of the box, for passing off the air at each stroke of the piston into

K—Receiver or regulator, which has—*k*. Movable top, made of wood, joined by leather to the upper part of the box; a thin sheet of lead to be attached thereto, for keeping up a certain compression of air in the regulator.—*k'*. Box or passage made of sheet iron, attached to the blowing apparatus, and having an open communication with the regulator at *k''*; to this passage is connected a conducting pipe, as marked by dotted lines in figure 2, for conveying the air from the receiver into the ash-pan under the furnace of the boiler, at *k'''*; this conducting pipe passes along the inside of the carriage frame, on either side.

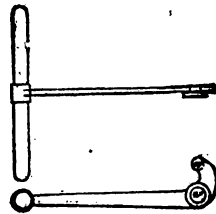


Figure 5.

L, L.—Two parallel iron rods, to which the piston of the blowing apparatus is attached. These rods work through guide-brasses *l, l*, and they may be attached to the crosshead G, by keys at *U, U*. The holes at the ends of the crossheads for admitting these rods, are sufficiently large to allow a free movement whenever it is desirable to work the blowing apparatus independently of the engine.

M—Spindle of wrought iron, placed transversely, and working in two bearings fixed under the carriage frame. To this spindle are fixed—*m, m*, two crank-levers, which by means of *m', m'*, two connecting rods, will give motion to the piston-rods L, L, by inserting the hooks *m'', m''*, into the eyes at the ends of the said piston-rods.

N—Crank-lever, fixed at the end of spindle M, which by means of

O—Crank-pin, fixed in the carriage wheel, and also

P—Connecting rod, will communicate motion to the blowing apparatus, whenever the carriage is in motion, and the above parts duly connected.

n—Pin fixed in lever N, placed at such distance from the centre of spindle M, that it will fit the hole *n'* of the lever shown in figure 5, while *n''* receives the end of spindle M. Whenever the blowing apparatus is to be worked by the engine or by manual force, the connecting rod P should be detached by means of the lock at *p*. The carriage frame should be made of oak, and plated with iron all over the outside and top; the top plate to have small recesses, to meet the brackets of the cylinders, as shown in the drawing. The lock of the carriage, axles and springs to be made as usual, only differing by having the large springs suspended *below* the axle. The carriage wheels to be constructed on the suspension principle; spokes and rim to be made of wrought iron very light.

With regard to the power of the engine represented by the drawing, it is estimated to be equal to 108 men.

The experience which I have had, says Mr. Ericsson, in the management of steam fire engines, induces me to suggest, that the best way of keeping the engine always in readiness, is that of having a small boiler or hot water stove erected in the place where the engine is kept, and by means of a connecting pipe, with a screw joint, keep up heat in the engine boiler; the fire grate or flues of which should be kept very clean with dry shavings, wood and coke, carefully laid in the furnace, ready for ignition. A torch should always be at hand to ignite with at a moment's notice. The plan of keeping up a *constant* fire in the engine boiler is bad in practice, as it prevents the keeping the flues clean, and causes formation of sediment in the boiler, to say nothing of wear and tear; but which is still more important, perhaps, at the very moment of the word of fire being given, the furnace is covered with clinkers, or the engineer is busy cleaning it.

The principal object of a Steam Fire Engine being that of not depending on the power or diligence of a large number of men, one or two horses should always be kept in an adjoining stable for its transportation. To this fire engine establishment the word of fire should be given, with-

out intermediate orders ; the horses being put to, the rod attached connecting the carriage wheel to the bellows, and the fuel ignited, the engine may on all ordinary occasions be at its destination, and in full operation, within ten minutes.

STEAM FIRE ENGINE IN LONDON.

The first steam fire engine (of six horse power) was constructed by Mr. Braithwaite, and used for the first time at a fire at the "Argyle Rooms," London, in 1830, and displayed great power in throwing the water on to the building.

Another engine, of the same construction, by the same gentleman, was soon after made, possessing ten horse power.

BERLIN:

In 1832 a similar engine was made by Mr. Braithwaite for the king of Prussia, intended for the public buildings of Berlin, in which it was said the steam could be got up in twenty minutes to a pressure of seventy pounds on the square inch. This engine ejected the water through a pipe one inch and a quarter in diameter, to the height of 115 to 120 feet ; the number of strokes of the piston was eighteen per minute, and the body of water ejected about one ton and three-fourths in that time.

NEW YORK.

An engine of the above description, and called the "Exterminator," was built, according to contract, for the New York Insurance Companies, and its powers tested in presence of the City Government and Firemen, in March, 1841. The engine was stated to be of twenty horse power, capable of doing the work of six common engines, and requiring the services of only three men, viz., one driver, one fireman, and one engineer. Two horses were required to draw it to fires.

The following notice appeared in a New York paper of March, 1841 :

"The new steam fire engine was tried yesterday afternoon, for the first time. Hose was attached to *three* hydrants, which supplied about the quantity of water required for the machine. The quantity and force of the water discharged from the pipe were great, but the distance to which it was thrown was less than we hoped would be the case. The height it reached was about fifty feet, and the horizontal distance when played low, about one hundred feet. Some improvements may yet be made, but at all events we are satisfied that in time it will be an important auxiliary to the department."

Upon the introduction of this machine into New York, much was said about it, and many supposed it destined to supersede the common engine, and that the services of the regular Firemen could be dispensed with ; the facts, however, proved the contrary ; the "Exterminator" did not answer the expectation of those who introduced it, and made its appearance but few times at fires.

Weevil's Fire Escape Ladder.



Fire at Raggett's Hotel, London, May 27, 1845.

**Utility of Fire Escape Ladders, as shown at the
Burning of a London Hotel, May 27, 1845, where
several Lives were lost.**



FIRE, attended with disastrous consequences, occurred at Raggett's Hotel, Dover street, Piccadilly, London, on Tuesday, May 27th, 1845, several persons having been burned to death, including Mrs. John Round, the lady of the member from Maldon, Essex, and Mr. Raggett and his daughter. The fire was discovered by police constable 44 C, who observed smoke issuing through the windows on the southern corner of the first floor. Several persons quickly made their appearance at the front and back windows in their night clothes. Such a strong hold had the fire obtained, that in less than ten minutes the flames were shooting forth from the windows with great fury, and extending nearly half way across the road.

The police constable, on giving the alarm, had the presence of mind to send messengers for the fire-escapes and engines; consequently, in a few minutes, two escapes, belonging to the Royal Society for the Protection of Life from Fire, were at the scene of conflagration, and also the parish engine. The one belonging to the County Office was also early in arriving, as well as several belonging to the London Brigade and the West of England, from the station in Waterloo-road. The first object that was sought to be accomplished was the rescue of the inmates, but before ladders or the escapes could be placed in front of the building, a number of persons got out upon a small balcony over the doorway, and, being assisted by the police and neighbors, they were enabled to effect their escape in safety. The persons in the upper floors were obliged to remain until the escapes could be placed to their windows. As soon as that was done, several of them entered the machines, and were received below in safety.

The following facts, collected from statements made by the Earl of Huntingdon and other survivors, leave no doubt as to the origin of the fire, and that four persons at least, viz., Mrs. John Round, the lady of the hon. member for Maldon, Essex; Mr. Raggett, sen., the proprietor of the hotel; his daughter, Miss Raggett, aged 27; and Mrs. Jones, a nurse in the service of the Earl of Huntingdon—perished.

It appears that the hotel (which was a very capacious one) was, at the time of the outbreak, completely occupied by families, chiefly from the country. The Earl and Countess of Huntingdon, with their infant son, Lord Hastings, occupied the front drawing-room on the first floor, and the corresponding rooms above for their servants, Mrs. Jones, and the nursemaid, &c. The back drawing-room was occupied by Mrs. John Round and daughter, (who had only arrived there late on Monday

afternoon, from Brighton, to be presented at Court,) and they had also a setting-room and other apartments on the second floor. Another suit of apartments on the drawing-room floor were occupied by Mr. Richard Poer King and his sister; and beneath these were apartments in the occupation of Lord Louth, the Hon. Colonel Bouverie, and other gentlemen; the remainder of the building being devoted by Mr. Raggett to his own family and domestics, and those of the families staying at the hotel.

Singular as it may appear, when the fire was first discovered, the hotel had not been closed for the night. Mr. Raggett and his daughter retired to rest shortly before twelve o'clock, as did the servants, with the exception of the head waiter and the cook, who, as well as Mr. Raggett, junior, were sitting up for those inmates who had not returned home. Mrs. Round and her daughter had been to the St. James's Theatre, to see the French plays, and the Earl and the Countess of Huntingdon, to the Opera. Mrs. Round and her daughter came home a few minutes after twelve, and retired to her sitting-room, on the second floor, to partake of supper. They had scarcely sat down when the head waiter, who had seen Miss King, while going up-stairs, entering her bed-room at the back of the first floor, and who had again descended, was alarmed by hearing screams of fire. On rushing up to the first-floor landing, he met Miss King coming down in a distracted state, exclaiming that her bed-room was in flames, and that she feared she had set fire to the bed-curtains. He found the whole room in a blaze, and entrance impossible, from the dense smoke that issued from it. The screams had attracted the attention of the inmates, and, on the second floor stairs, he saw Mrs. Round on the landing, in the same dress in which she had arrived from the theatre. He told her the house was on fire, and to make her escape. He ran down stairs, supposing the lady to be following him, and saw no more of her. Miss Round states that she was with her mother at this time, and, either from the smoke or fright, the lady fell on the stairs, but, at the same moment, a man caught her up, saying he would save her; and, seeing her, as she supposed, safe, she ran into the apartment occupied by her attendant, but was unable to proceed down stairs, on account of the intensity of the heat and smoke. She and Miss Raggett again went back to the front room, and opened the window; and when the fire escape arrived the fire was coming into the apartment. Miss Raggett was the first to go out, but did so before the conductor could get up, and fell on to the pavement and was killed. Miss Round then got out with her attendant, and effected their escape. A minute or two before this occurrence, a painful sight was witnessed by the crowds which had already assembled. A poor fellow, servant to Mr. King, was seen to make his appearance at an adjoining window of the second floor to that from which Miss Raggett fell. The flames were in the apartment, and in the hope of immediate assistance he got outside, and clung to the window sill for several moments. The flames bursting through the window burnt his hands so dreadfully that he let go his hold, and fortunately fell into the balcony,

from which he ultimately managed, with difficulty, to scramble into the street. About three or four minutes prior to the cries of fire being raised, Lord Huntingdon had arrived home, and his lordship states that he had scarcely put his hat down when he was startled by the alarm. His first impulse was to run to the room where his son and servants were. Mrs. Jones, the nurse, had heard the alarm, and was preparing to dress the child, but his lordship snatched his son from her arms, and with the countess ran out of the house, telling her to follow him. He believed she did so, but returned for some article, and must afterwards have mistaken the staircase, and got into one of the back rooms, and out of the window, from the position in which the body was found. The person whom Miss Round saw on the landing with her mother, is supposed to be Mr. Ragget, sen., from the fact that the remains of the two bodies, when discovered, were found close together.

The rapidity and intensity of the fire may be accounted for from the fact that the whole of the apartments were wainscotted, and that there was three times as much wood in the building as is usual in modern houses. Although, therefore, there were ten engines in attendance within half an hour of the outbreak, and a plentiful supply of water, the whole building, with the single exception of the sitting room of Mrs. Round, which remained with the supper things standing on the table uninjured and untouched, was in flames.

The first body discovered was that of the unfortunate woman Mrs. Jones, about three o'clock, by Mr. Inspector Aggs, of the C division, and some of the firemen, dreadfully burned about the head, face and arms, on the top of some leads in the rear of the premises and over the kitchen. She had evidently dropped from one of the second floor windows. She had also a frightful wound on her head, but her body was immediately identified by Lord Huntingdon. The ruins were not sufficiently cool to commence a search for the other bodies supposed to be there until ten o'clock, when, at the earnest request of Col. Boucher, Col. Rolt, and other relatives of Mrs. Round, some of the brigade were induced to enter, and, after a short search, they found what were supposed to be the remains of Mrs. Round, lying on a part of the burnt flooring of the first floor, and close to them the remains of another person, supposed to be those of Mr. Raggett. They presented a truly horrifying spectacle, scarcely anything but the mere trunks remaining. They were placed in shrouds, and conveyed to the workhouse of St. George's, Hanover square, in Mount street, as was also that of Mrs. Jones. Miss Raggett was conveyed to No. 8 Dover street, exactly opposite the hotel, where she died almost immediately after.

It appears that the Countess of Huntingdon lost the whole of her jewels, the estimated value of which his lordship stated to be as much as £3000; and those of the unfortunate Mrs. Round and her daughter, which they intended to have worn at the Drawing Room, are estimated at a much larger sum, in addition to the plate. Mr. King, who is a merchant from Bristol, had in one of his apartments a large and valuable chest of plate, supposed to be destroyed.

Mrs. Round's family had, up to the discovery of the bodies, entertained a hope that the unfortunate lady had escaped.

Her Majesty had herself witnessed the progress of the flames from the Palace, and a messenger was at an early hour sent to inquire into the extent of the damage.

In the report made by Mr. Braidwood he attributes the rapid progress of the fire to the fact that the whole of the doors were thrown open, and thus a free current of air tended to increase the flames.

A singular circumstance in connection with this shocking affair occurred on Tuesday afternoon, about two o'clock. Lord Huntingdon came to Inspector Aggs and asked if it was safe to enter the drawing-room on the first floor, as he remembered that in his flight he had left a valuable gold watch on the mantle-piece. He was referred to the firemen, one of whom his lordship accompanied up the ladder and through the window into the apartment, and shortly after returned, having found the watch in the fender partially melted.

Prior to taking apartments at Raggett's Hotel, on Monday evening, Mrs. Round and her daughter applied at Mivart's, but that establishment was full.

The loss of property was estimated at little short of £30,000.

The particulars given below were supplied by sufferers from the fire :—

Benjamin Rich, a footman to Mr. W. King, said that he went to bed shortly before twelve o'clock, and supposes that he had been asleep about ten minutes, when he was awoke by hearing a loud cry of "fire" raised. He immediately got up, and opened his window, on the third floor, when he noticed his master and mistress looking out of the drawing-room window, and shouting "Fire." He (Rich) got out of a window, and hung by the sill until the flames burst open his bed-room door, and burned his hands so badly, that he was obliged to relinquish his hold, and, drooping upon the balcony, he succeeded in climbing round a post, and then slid down the lamp. He saw his master get out of the window first, and then pull his wife out, and escape in the same way.

Charles Roberson, the head waiter to the establishment, said : I was sitting up, waiting for the return of two families from the French Theatre. On the arrival of one, I saw the party up stairs, and was returning down again, when Mr. Raggett, jun., called for a light to show another party up stairs. I then noticed a light in the drawing-room, and, on going in, I there perceived a lady ; she had a candle in her hand, and she entered the bed-room adjoining the drawing-room. Having been down stairs about three minutes, I heard a sudden cry of fire raised, and, on running up to ascertain the cause, I met the Earl of Huntingdon on the stairs, who begged of me to go and rescue Lord Hastings. I tried to rush through the smoke and flame, but could not. I then ran to awake the parties asleep in the building. In the meantime Lord Hastings had been rescued and brought down. Mrs. Raggett was confined to her bed, she having broken her leg a few days previous ; the

two sons forced their way up, and carried her down. I then, after much difficulty, succeeded in saving the books and the cash-box, and also Colonel Bouverie's luggage. I believe that the fire was occasioned by a spark flying from the lady's candle on to the bedding. I had a most difficult task to wake the porter; for upon entering his bed-room I shook him violently, and told him that the house was on fire; he answered me, and I retreated, but he not making his appearance I returned and found him fast asleep again. By great force I at length succeeded in getting him up.

C. Collins, valet to Lord Maidstone, stated that he was just leaving the Coach and Horses, opposite the hotel, when flames were bursting from the back part of Raggett's Hotel. As he well knew, and was well known on the premises, he ran in instantly, the people in the streets at the time joining in the cry of "Fire!" Finding that the staircase was in flames, he went to the foot of it, and called as loudly as he could, shortly after which the screaming of persons in the upper rooms was dreadful. At this instant three ladies appeared at one of the drawing-room windows, nearest the balcony. Being encouraged, they came out in their night-dresses, and, ladders being procured, they were taken, in safety, into the neighboring houses. After rescuing a quantity of property and clothing, which he lodged at the Coach and Horses opposite, belonging to Colonel Bouverie and others, he was compelled to withdraw, and leave the house and its contents to the fury of the flames, as the heat was too powerful for him. He saw eight or nine persons rescued, the majority of whom were ladies.

THE INQUEST ON THE BODIES.

On Wednesday evening, Mr. Bedford, the coroner for the city of Westminster, and a jury of thirteen householders of St. George's, Hanover square, assembled at the Rising Sun, Charles street, Grosvenor-square, to investigate the circumstances connected with the death of the four unfortunate persons whose bodies had been discovered.

The jury were impannelled on the bodies of Mr. William Raggett, aged 62; Miss Anne Raggett, aged 37; Ann Jones, aged 28, and the body of a female unknown (supposed to be that of Mrs. John Round.)

Lord Huntingdon and several other members of the aristocracy were present during the proceedings, which excited an intense and painful degree of interest. The bodies lay in shells in the dead house in the rear of St. George's workhouse, Mount street, and on being viewed by the jury presented a shocking spectacle. That of Mr. Raggett, sen., and the body supposed to be that of Mrs. Round, were literally burnt to cinders, whilst that of Lord Huntingdon's nurse, Mrs. Jones, and Miss Raggett, were very much mutilated.

Miss Elizabeth King was the first witness called, and appeared much affected while giving her evidence. Her left hand was bound up in silk, and she had evidently been greatly burned about the face. She said, I reside at No. 2 Ratcliff-parade, Bristol. Shortly after 12 o'clock on Monday evening last I was staying at Raggett's Hotel, with my bro-

ther and sister-in-law. We had a drawing-room and two bed rooms. My sister had just left me to retire for the night, and I went into my bed-room to obtain a little water to make some liquorice tea. I procured the water, and returned to the drawing-room, where I placed the water on the fire. In about two or three minutes I heard a cracking noise, and I went to the drawing-room door to see what it was, and I then saw the flames issuing from my bed-room door and over the door. I called "Fire, fire!" as loud as I was able, and one of the waiters came up stairs and then shouted fire also. My brother and sister then came up to the room. I ran into the bed-room to get a blanket to throw on the fire. I found I could not, and I got much burned. I ran back to the drawing-room, and my brother and sister broke the window, and called out "Fire!" and "Police!" I persuaded them to come down the staircase, which the fire had not then reached. They had only their night clothes on, and were afraid to go, but I ran to the staircase to show them it was safe. I thought there was plenty of time to get down the staircase, but when I descended a step or two, the flames caught me and burnt me in several places. Two men, I believe, rushed up stairs past me at that time. When I got down I begged the people to bring ladders to save my brother and sister, who were at the window.

By the Coroner: There was no fire in the bed-room. I took a candle with me when I went in there, and brought it back again. I was caught hold of by two or three men, and carried down stairs. I cannot exactly say the cause of the fire; but, having been in the room so recently, and knowing there was no fire or candle there, I feared it had been caused by my candle. My candle had no guard before it. To reach my bed-room, I had to pass through a narrow passage, and the bed-room was very small. I had no reason to believe that any one had entered my bed-room. There were some lucifer matches in the drawer of the washing stand. I had not used any of them at that time. The bed curtains were of dimity, and a spark from the candle might have ignited them, but I cannot say it did so. I cannot say in what part of the room the flames commenced. They must have burst through the door, or the door was open when I heard the cracking noise.

By the Jury: There is no circumstance which leads me to believe that a spark from my candle ignited the bed curtains.

Francis Henry Earl of Huntingdon, examined: I am residing at present at No. 13 Hill street. On Monday night last, I and my family were staying at Raggett's Hotel. I had been on Monday night to the French plays, and returned to the hotel, I think, about half past twelve o'clock. I went to the drawing room, and had just put my hat on the table, and was taking a chamber light to go into my bed room, when I heard cries of fire. Lady Huntingdon and her mother, Mrs. Power, had just preceded me, and I was wishing Mrs. Power good night at the time. I think I can swear it was young Mr. Raggett's voice I heard cry "Fire!" and "Oh, my mother!" I then ran first up stairs to my child's room, and shook Mrs. Jones, the nurse, who was asleep, saying, "Jones, Jones, the house is on fire! give me the child!" She said,

'Wait, my lord, till I dress him ; the cold will be the death of him.' I snatched the child from her, and shook her again by the shoulder, exclaiming, "Good God ! woman, the house is in flames. Follow me." I then rushed with him down stairs, the whole of which were on fire. My eyebrows and the child's hair were singed off. I rushed into the street and into Batt's Hotel, who kindly threw their doors open to every one. I then found Lady Huntingdon and her mother in the street. My apartments were the opposite drawing rooms to Mr. and Mrs. King's. After my wife was in safety, I went back for Mrs. Jones, and then saw the fire escape being put up, but it was being done in a very bungling manner. The room where my son and Jones were was exactly over Miss King's bed room ; and when I tried to come out with my son, the flames had reached its door.

By the Foreman : I will not undertake to say there was neglect on the part of those who had charge of the fire escape, but there appeared to be some difficulty in their getting it close enough to the house. The men appeared to be sober who had charge of the escape.

Evidence resumed : About three o'clock a policeman informed me that a body of a female had been found in the rear of the hotel, and I went to see it. I have seen the same body at the workhouse, and I believe it to be that of Ann Jones, from her having red hair, and being a married woman, and having a ring on her finger.

By the Jury : I never saw a body of firemen and police do their duty on any occasion so effectively in any country in the world. Everything was done to save life and property. I have no idea from what part the flames first came. Where Ann Jones' body was found was immediately under the window of the room in which I had left her on the second floor. It is my opinion she threw herself from the window, and was crushed by the fall, rather than killed by the fire.

Mr. Frederick William Raggett examined : I am the son of the deceased Mr. William Raggett, late proprietor of Raggett's Hotel, in Dover street. I acted as head waiter and manager of the hotel for my father. I was at home when the fire broke out. My father and sister retired to rest at eleven o'clock, and I was sitting up with the head waiter and cook for the Earl of Huntingdon and Mrs. Round, who had gone to the French plays ; the latter lady having ordered a roast fowl for supper at half past 12 o'clock. Mrs. Round occupied a sitting-room and two bedrooms on the second floor, which were all connected with one another by doors. Mrs. Round and her daughter arrived home at 12 o'clock, and I took up the urn for making tea, and the fowl. She then ordered some dry toast, and asked to have the things left up there, to save us trouble. On my return down stairs I saw flames rushing out of Miss King's bedroom, on the drawing-room floor, and heard the cry of fire. I instantly rushed to my mother's bed-room, she having been bed-ridden through a broken leg for three weeks. My mother slept on the second floor ; and my brother followed me and assisted her down the stairs, but the flames were so overpowering that we both fell with her. I was assisted then by some men, and we carried my mother to Batt's Hotel. I then re-

turned to see after the safety of my brother. I must here remark that when I saw the flames I called out "Fire, fire!" loud enough to disturb every one in the house. On my going back to look for my brother, I found him on the ladder bringing Miss Round down the escape. He went up again and brought down Miss Round's servant. My brother appeared mad, as he said he could find neither his father nor his sister. Had the fire escape been there in proper time, and the conductor not been drunk, it would have been properly placed, and, I believe, every soul might have been saved.

Mr. Raggett here said, that although the house was insured for £2000, every vestige of property belonging to his father was destroyed. The candles used were all patent candles, and a spark falling from them would not have ignited. Miss King's bed curtains were of quilted dimity. He was of opinion, therefore, that the candle must, while Miss King was passing the bed, have come in contact with the curtains, unknown to her.

By the Jury: It is my firm belief that the two bodies so much burnt are those of my father and Mrs. Round, as they were seen together by Miss King, my father endeavoring to save her, on the staircase. There was a trap-door by which persons could escape to the roof. The housemaid, Mrs. Barnes, slept in a front room on the second floor, and, as I understand, these bodies were found in the back part of the premises. I should say that the female body is that of Mrs. Round.

The Coroner, at this stage of the proceedings, remarked, that as there appeared to be considerable doubt as to the identity of the fourth body, whether it was that of the unfortunate lady, Mrs. Round, or Mrs. Barnes, the housekeeper, perhaps it would be better to adjourn the inquiry, in order to set that matter at rest.

A discussion then ensued among the jury as to taking further evidence, when, in answer to the Coroner, Mr. Inspector Aggs stated that the hotel was being shored up, and there was every probability of the other bodies being discovered, if they were in the ruins, in the course of another day. The inquiry was resumed on the following day, but no new facts were elicited.

The following is the official report of the damage. Nearly one half of the front of the building, and the greater part of the back and contents destroyed. Supposed cause of fire, curtain becoming ignited from a candle. Five lives lost. Insurance unknown. No. 46, Lord Gardener's, slight damage to furniture; insured in the Sun Office. No. 44, Mr. E. Moxon, publisher, slight damage to building. Fire extinguished by eight brigade engines, with those of the County and West of England Offices, and two belonging to the parishes.

THE BUILDING.—Raggett's Hotel was a cruciform structure of great breadth of frontage and of considerable depth, both in flank and base. Including the basement, it contained about forty rooms, comprising dining apartments, drawing-rooms, sleeping dormitories, attics, &c.; in fact,

each floor was so fitted as to furnish a complete suite for each family: The principal defect, however, in the structure was, that there was no escape from the upper rooms to the front door only by the staircase leading to it, nor was it possible that any one could have got out from the midst of the flames, had the usual communication by the staircase been cut off, except by a door on the roof. Unfortunately, that difficulty was felt in the present instance; and it is, undoubtedly, owing to this cause that so many persons lost their lives.

Several hair-breadth escapes were experienced by parties on the premises. Two ladies were saved by rushing from the building in their night dresses, and making their escape from the balcony over the door of the hotel on the shoulders of the populace. Two others were rescued by the fire escape, while one or two others escaped by the roof.

Burning of a Puppet Show at Burwell, Eng., in 1727. Many Lives lost.



THIS horrible catastrophe took place on the 8th of September, 1727, in a barn at Burwell, Cambridgeshire, Eng., while the inhabitants were assembled to see a puppet-show.—“The walls of the barn, the melancholy scene of this terrible calamity, were of great thickness, no less than nineteen inches; and also of great strength, being built of chunch stones, as they are called in that country, cemented by mortar, as appeared by the remains. The height of the walls was nine feet; the roof, which was entirely of thatch, was seventeen feet and a half high; the length of the barn was forty-five feet, and the breadth of it was sixteen feet and three quarters, exclusive of the walls.

About one-third of the barn was empty, and was therefore pitched upon for the puppet-show; the other two-thirds, or thereabout, were filled with oat straw bound up in large trusses, reaching as high at least as the walls, though not so high as the roof. Adjoining to the barn, and only separated by a partition of lath and plaster, and this partition rising no higher than the walls, and not to the roof of the building, was a stable with a hay-loft, between which stable and the place where the multitude were assembled for the show, were heaped the bundles of oat-straw, so that the barn and stable had one common thatched roof, and could scarcely be said to be parted from one another, and the trusses of straw lying between the stable and the place for the exhibition of the show, in a manner connected them together.

In the stable were two horses belonging to Mr. Shephard, the master of the puppet-show. The hostler, belonging to the proprietor of the barn, one Richard Whitaker, coming with a candle and lantern, it being then about nine o'clock in the evening, to feed the horses, found that the puppet-show was begun and was desirous to see it, without paying the

penny, the price of the entertainment. Upon his being refused admittance into the barn unless he would advance the same with others, and he not choosing to do it, he repaired to the stable, went into the hay-loft with the candle and lantern, and threw down in an opening from the hay-loft into the stable a quantity of hay into the rack, and became, by the candle he carried with him, either the intentional wicked cause, or the unhappy occasion of the dreadful fire which presently ensued.

Mr. Howe, the narrator, who was seated upon a beam in the barn, could from his situation take a view across the straw to the hay-loft, and saw the fire, when it was so small, that he thinks he could have inclosed it in his hands, but the flame kindling in the hay-loft so near the roof, the roof being common, as has been observed, to the stable and barn, and being all of thatch, and the thatch being very dry, the preceding summer having been remarkable for its drought, and being covered also with old dry cobwebs, unhappily the fire, as the parish register expresses it, 'like lightning flew round the barn in an instant.'

The multitude rushed toward the door, which, unhappily, was so narrow as that it was only three feet in breadth, including the posts. Besides this, the door opened inwards, was fast hasped by an iron staple, and was blocked up by an oval table, upon which some sleight-of-hand tricks had been exhibited as a preface to the show, and which, after there was no more use for it, was placed against the door merely to save room, as the place was but strait for the company. The door being thus not only small, but also fastened and blocked up, the pressure of the multitude was so great that they were presently thrown in heaps, one upon another. In a short time, if time can be called short in such circumstances, the door was broken up by Mr. Thomas Dobedee of Wicken, in Cambridgeshire, a very stout man, in the prime of life, and who, being at that time in Burwell, came and gave his assistance. Upon breaking up the door, he, with all his might, drew out as many as he could from the tremendous ruin.

When the door was broken up, Mr. Thomas Howe leaped down from the beam on which he was sitting, upon the crowd below, pressed and clustered together, and lying upon one another as he believes to the depth of three or four feet.

If like events, producing like effects, will be of any service in this case, a well-attested fact may be related, which happened not very long since, at a place called Bottisham-Load, not many miles from Burwell. A Methodist was preaching in a barn to a great concourse of people. A loose, idle fellow, and who well deserved punishment for his wicked sport, put a lighted pipe into a hole or crevice of the barn, whence issued, it may be supposed by his blowing, some sparks of fire. These being perceived by some of the congregation, immediately the alarm of fire was given. The people in the inner part of the barn, in their violent hurry, pushed down the persons that stood near the barn-door; others, as may be supposed, pushed them down, &c., till in a little time the multitude lay, piled heaps upon heaps, to the depth of several feet. A person, who was present, observed, that he verily believed, had the

barn taken fire, notwithstanding the door was open, several of the congregation must have lost their lives. One person in particular, whom he well knew, a stout man, was instantly thrown down, and was so pressed by the throng that lay upon him, that he was utterly unable to extricate himself. Decency, friendship, and civility, are all lost, and violence is more than violence, and strength more than strength, when death immediately threatens us in its most formidable shapes; but to return to the former fire—

At length, in about half a hour from the time the fire began, down descended the thatch of a roof seventeen feet and a half in height, no doubt in the fiercest blaze, upon the helpless, hopeless creatures, and not improbably the trusses of straw, when their bands were burnt, rolled down upon them in so many volumes of flame, and thus one ruin was heaped upon another.

The horror, the anguish, the cries, the shrieks of the sufferers, were now soon ended in one universal silence and death. A catastrophe how inconceivably terrible! In the morning what a hideous view of skulls, bones, carnage, &c. The tender reader cannot bear the description, and the writer is not inclined to give it. The mangled shocking relics were gathered up, shovelled into carts, and buried in two large pits dug for that purpose in the church-yard.

The consternation and distress of the inhabitants of Burwell, and the neighboring towns and hamlets of Swaffham-Prior, Reche, and Upware, each of which contributed its part to the number of sufferers, must be great beyond all imagination. Here were parents bewailing the loss of their children, here children bewailing the loss of their parents, husbands mourning for their wives, wives for their husbands, brothers lamenting for their sisters, and sisters for their brothers; what faces pale with terror, what knees smiting one against another, what floods of tears, what wringing of hands, what beating bosoms, and what heart-piercing shrieks, and cries, and groans! To increase the calamity, the flames from the barn spread themselves, and burnt down five houses in the neighborhood.

Eighty-three perished on the spot, two died afterwards, and one woman was burnt in one of the houses. Among them was the master of the show, his wife, daughter, and man, three children of two families, and two children of eight families, and one or more individuals of every family in Burwell and the adjoining hamlets.

The hostler was committed to prison, and tried at the subsequent assizes, but nothing proved against him. A fanatical preacher, however, in a subsequent sermon, asserted, that it was not the natural and inevitable progress of the flames that destroyed the unfortunate people, but the special vengeance of God, as a punishment for their sins. One of which was, that of attending a puppet-show; while those who escaped by their personal energy were (for some reason unknown to this fanatic,) saved by a miracle! This preacher forgot that 'those whom the tower of Siloam fell and slew, were not the wickedest in all Israel.' "

Nine Hundred Lives lost by an Explosion at Constantinople, Oct. 23, 1850.



MOST dreadful catastrophe occurred at Constantinople on the 23d of October, 1850, by which a great number of persons were suddenly hurried into eternity. The Turkish three-decker Neiri Shevket, ship of the line, 120 guns, was totally destroyed by an explosion of its Powder Magazine, arising, as some supposed, from a quantity of powder having been spilt from a defective canister, and accidentally ignited.—

This dreadful accident occurred in the Arsenal at about ten minutes past ten, A. M., and was so terrific as to have been heard at a great distance. The explosion was so powerful that it divided the ship into two parts, and blew up the upper deck, with the guns and rigging, full 25 feet into the air. This part fell sideways into the sea, and disappeared for a few minutes. The lower deck was then observed to catch fire and burn with intense violence for seven minutes, when the ship gradually sunk.

Immediately after the explosion, hundreds of kaiks and embarkations repaired to the scene of disaster, and a number of mutilated remains, showing but little resemblance to human beings, were picked up. Of the 110 taken to the temporary ambulance erected on shore, 36 died immediately after; and most of the sufferers were in such a dreadful condition that no hope whatever was entertained of their recovery. One poor fellow, a lieutenant, was picked up nearly drowned, fearfully burnt, and with a spike through his shoulder. He died in six minutes after having been conveyed to the ambulance. An Armenian porter had both his legs cut clean off, and still courageously dictated a letter to his mother, informing her of his sad state. No official list of the loss was published, but it was ascertained that the most gallant officers of the Turkish navy were lost. Among the number were six captains, who were on board the admiral's ship in conference on a point of etiquette, and also the aide-de-camp of the grand admiral, 14 lieutenants, who were invited to an examination of several pupils of the Academy, and 25 scholars of the first class.

The loss by this casualty was supposed to be as follows:—One commodore, Vice-Admiral Mahmoud Pacha; one superior officer, Capitan Pacha's aide-de-camp; six captains, including the commander of the Neiri Shevket; 21 lieutenants; 30 sub-officers; 25 midshipmen, including the scholars of the Academy; 640 sailors and marines; 70 workmen, sent for repairs; 45 hammals, employed to raise the anchors; 75 sailors belonging to the other ships, and in attendance on their officers; 50 visitors; 14 passengers in kaiks, which sunk while passing near the ship at the time of the explosion; and one Italian broker.—

Deducting from this total the wounded and the saved, and their remain upwards of 900 lives lost.

It is truly fortunate that but a small quantity of powder was on board; had the explosion taken place two days before, the disaster would have been incalculable, owing to the vicinity of the dock and timber yards, and the other men of war, which must inevitably have been burnt. The wreck was complete, and the whole port was covered with fragments of masts, bulwarks and timbers belonging to the Neiri Shevket. The shock was felt all over the city. In the suburbs of Kassim Pacha, Djoubali and Fanar, not a pane of glass was whole; and even at Pera, which is at a considerable distance, glass was smashed, and the effect was similar to a shock of earthquake.

The first ministers who arrived at the scene of desolation were Suleyman Pacha, Mehemet Pacha, and Mehemet Ali Pacha. The first, who is the great admiral, was so affected at the occurrence that he swooned several times. The Sultan immediately ordered the sum of £1000 to be distributed among the widows, and also that pensions should be settled on the nearest relatives of the deceased.

The complement of the Neiri Shevket was 740 men, only 100 of whom afterwards answered the muster. The choicest men and officers of the fleet were on board this ship.

Perils of the Active Fireman.



A fire which occurred at the furniture manufacturing establishment of Messrs. Russell & Baker, in Dedham, Mass., Nov. 18, 1850, Mr. Enos Ford, an officer in the Dedham Fire Department, narrowly escaped a very serious accident. While assisting in pulling down part of a building which was on fire, he lost his balance, and fell head foremost into a mass of burning ruins, from which he was drawn out with a great deal of difficulty. He contrived to keep his head out of the flames, but other portions of his person were badly burnt. To make matters worse, some one in the crowd seized a demijohn of what was supposed to be oil, and began pouring the contents upon Mr. Ford's hands, from both of which the skin and most of the flesh had been burnt. It appears the demijohn contained camphene, and its application to the wounds was, of course, agonizing in the extreme. Mr. F. fainted away in consequence of the excessive pain. He was carried home, and medical aid promptly rendered.

The furniture establishment, together with two houses and two barns, were destroyed, and many persons temporarily thrown out of employment. Russell & Baker's loss was estimated at \$12,000; insurance 2500.

Serious Fire at Medford, Mass., Nov. 21st, 1850. Twenty-five Buildings burnt.



SCARCELY had the citizens of Medford retired to their rest on the night of Thursday, Nov. 21st, when they were startled from their peaceful slumbers by the cry of "Fire," and a most destructive conflagration did it prove to be, reducing a large and populous section of the town, near the Railroad Depot, to ashes, rendering some thirty of forty families homeless, and destroying property to the amount of \$75,000. The first alarm was given about 10 o'clock, when flames were discovered issuing from the loft of Gregg's stable, situated on the north side of Main street, near the bridge. The building being of wood, with combustible contents, was soon wrapped in a blaze, communicating with three dwelling houses adjoining, and belonging to the Gregg estate, which were all destroyed. A yoke of oxen, one horse, a cow and several swine were burned with the stable. The three dwellings were occupied by Irish families, who lost every thing, the members barely escaping with their lives.

The wind blowing fresh, the heat and flames were driven with great power, and communicated with the buildings on both sides of Main street, many of which were instantly encircled by the unsparing element.

Next to the Gregg estate was Timothy Cutting's house, blacksmith's shop, and two stables, which were totally destroyed. Mr. Nathan Barker occupied a part of the dwelling house. Mr. George Lynne's house, blacksmith shop and stable came next, and were also destroyed. The Misses Tufts' dwelling house, and Richard Tufts' wheelwright shop, on the same side of Main street, were also totally laid in ashes.

On the opposite side of Main street, the fire commenced at the bridge with the dwelling house of Nathan W. White, and swept down Daniel Lawrence's store and dwelling house, James Hyde's dwelling house and store, Elias Tufts' wheelwright shop and dwelling house, George E. Willis' tin-ware shop and dwelling house, Mitchell's barber shop and dwelling house, Benjamin Parker's dwelling house and stable, Moses Merrill & Son's paint shop, and Hartshorn's harness shop, in the same building, a ten-footer occupied by an Irish family, and three stables—were all totally destroyed.

The conflagration swept on before a strong northwest wind until about 12 o'clock, when it came to the lumber-yard of Mr. Oakman Joyce, two thirds of which was destroyed, when its progress was checked. The old Nathan Waite house, nearly opposite the hotel, came near being destroyed, but fortunately the flames in this direction were stayed.

Mr. John Schwartz's saw manufactory was destroyed, with about \$300 worth of saws. His household furniture and the clothing of his family were all lost. Some of the houses named were occupied by Mr. James Hyde, Mr. Henry Forbes, and Mr. Aborn, (of Washington street, Boston.) Mr. Lawrence's loss was about \$2500—no insurance. Mr. Joyce had about \$5000 worth of lumber destroyed.

From a point near the bridge where the fire commenced, to the Medford House, on both sides of Main street, the work of devastation was complete, not a building being left standing. Several small tenements in the rear of the Medford House were also consumed. So fast did the flames spread, that it was barely possible for many to escape with their lives. We have heard of several hair-breadth escapes by women who seized their children and hurried with them into the street, with nothing but their night-clothes on.

At about 2 o'clock in the morning the onward progress of the fire was completely stayed, and numerous buildings which were considered in imminent danger were saved.

Mr. Daniel Lawrence, who discovered the fire, saved one horse from the stable, and in attempting to save the second, was badly burnt, and came near losing his life. He had to make his escape through a sheet of flames, and had his whiskers and most of his hair burnt off.

The Fire Department deserve great credit for their promptness in rallying to the conflagration. Engine Companies from Boston, with the Somerville, Charlestown, Chelsea, Malden, Reading, Woburn and Cambridge companies, were on hand, which, together with the Medford companies, signalized themselves by their efforts to stay the conflagration. Many of these companies found it utterly impossible to cross the bridge, on account of the intense heat from the flames, which were blowing in one continuous sheet directly across their path. After being detained more than an hour, an old mud-scow was procured, and made to answer for a ferry-boat. The heavy tubs were then taken down the bank of the river, carried over, and hoisted up again on the opposite embankment, and then their whole strength was brought to bear upon the destroyer.

A messenger was despatched to Boston about 11 o'clock for engines and men. The bells of the city were rung to call out the fire department, and companies 10 and 15 were promptly detailed for that service. No. 10 was only thirty minutes going from the draw on Charlestown bridge to the scene of conflagration, a distance of full five miles.

By the extraordinary exertions of the firemen, the lumber wharf of Mr. Manning, which was in great danger, was saved.

The total number of buildings destroyed was twenty-five; number of families burnt out, forty. Only a small portion of the furniture of those burnt out was saved. Some of the stores, however, were principally cleared of goods before the fire reached them. The citizens of Medford vied with each other in extending hospitalities and sympathy to the unfortunate families made houseless by this great catastrophe.

The people of Medford duly appreciated the services of the Firemen, and besides heartily thanking them for their prompt attendance, fur-

nished them with a liberal supply of refreshments. Nearly every engine remained on the ground until about 3 o'clock in the morning, when they began to "limber up," and retrace their steps homeward. All the companies soon after left the ruins; but at half past 8 o'clock next morning, the Medford companies were again called upon to put more water on the burning ruins.

One or two accidents occurred at this fire. An old man named Muler, who lived in the "Gregg House," in his haste to escape, fell into the flames, and was badly burnt. A fireman named William Davis, fell from a building, and his back was seriously injured. Another fireman had his foot badly cut by an axe glancing from a timber which he was in the act of cutting away.

Mr. Baker and his lady, of the hotel, are deserving of the greatest praise for their many acts of kindness to the sufferers. Mr. Baker kept "open house" to the firemen and all others who took an active part either in saving property or extinguishing the flames, while his amiable lady was unceasing in her efforts to render comfortable no less than eleven whole families, consisting of from three to nine members each, who had been kindly permitted to have a temporary home under her hospitable roof. Many of the children of these families, who were nearly naked, were promptly provided with comfortably garments, while the youngest portion were nicely "tucked up" in good warm beds for the night. Several other ladies of Medford are worthy of credit, going about among the sufferers and administering to their necessities.

The Medford Hotel and the Railroad Depot came very near being destroyed, but the almost superhuman efforts of the firemen saved them. As to the whole loss, it was impossible to get it correctly, but probably it will not fall below \$75,000. No lives were lost, though there were several very narrow escapes. A number were severely burned and blinded by the fire, and engineer Sampson received an injury to one of his eyes. The Medford Hook and Ladder Carriage, with all the ladders, hooks and axes, was destroyed.

The following fire companies were present at the fire:—Olive Branch, No. 3, of West Cambridge; Niagara, No. 5, of East Cambridge; Somerville, No. 1, of Somerville; Hamilton, No. 4, of Chelsea; No. 2 of Cambridgeport; four engines from Charlestown; General Taylor, No. 4, of Malden; one engine from Melrose; one from Woburn, and Nos. 10 and 15 from Boston.

A Mother's Heroism.

THE house of Peter Knight, of Bath, Me, was nearly destroyed by fire in December, 1850, and a small child sleeping in the room where the fire burst out, was saved by the intrepidity of its mother, after one or two attempts to rescue it had been made by others. The child and its mother were taken from the window of the second story, the latter with her dress in flames.

Memoranda of Early Fires in Boston.



1740. *April 24.*—A fire broke out in the ropewalk of Mr. McDaniell.

1740. *July 14.*—About one o'clock this morning, a fire broke out at the house of Mr. Beasley, near the Mill Pond, but by timely assistance, a stop was soon put thereto. It is feared 'twas done maliciously, by some mischievous person, the fire being kindled among a large parcel of faggots.

1742. *Feb. 11.*—A fire broke out in a chaise house of Treasurer Foye, which destroyed two riding carriages.

1743. *Sept. 16.*—Between the hours of 10 and 11 in the evening, the work shop of Mr. Keighly, twine spinner, near Fort Hill, together with a stable, was consumed. The loss was estimated at £750 sterling.

1743. *Feb. 23.*—This afternoon Mr. Sheaffe's malt house, near the Common, together with brew house and stock, and some other buildings, was destroyed by fire. The wind being very high, carried the sparks and flakes to a barn and another building at some distance, which also fell a sacrifice to the flames.

1745. *Feb. 12.*—This morning, between 5 and 6 o'clock, a fire broke out at the South End, in a working-house belonging to Mr. David Colson, leather-dresser, wherein was a large stock of leather and other things very valuable, which, with the said house, were soon destroyed, as also were several other buildings contiguous. The loss was very great, reckoned at several thousand pounds.

1746. *Jan. 7.* A fire broke out at a house near the fortification, whereby three or four tenements were so much damaged, as that the inhabitants were obliged to seek some other place of abode.

1746. *Nov. 16.*—Sunday morning about 2 o'clock, a joiner's shop in Water street was discovered to be on fire, the property of Mr. George Hewes. It consumed the same, with a row of buildings contiguous.

1747. *Jan. 3.*—A fire broke out between twelve and one o'clock in a brick building at the North End, part of which was improved for the making of malt.

1747. *Sept. 18.*—Between 1 and 2 o'clock P. M., a fire broke out in a garret near Oliver's Dock, by which the roof was destroyed, and much other damage done to the house, and some others adjoining, and some persons hurt.

1747. *Dec. 7.*—Mr. Barrett's sail loft on Wentworth's wharf, near the draw bridge, and north of it, about 3 o'clock, P. M., was burnt, with a quantity of sails, duck, &c.

1747. *Dec. 9.*—This morning, between 6 and 7 o'clock, we were exceedingly surprised by a most terrible fire, which broke out at the Town House in King street, whereby that spacious and beautiful building, except the bare outward walls, was entirely destroyed. As the fire began in the middle or second story, the records, books, papers, furniture, pictures of the kings and queens, &c., which were in the Council Chamber, the Chamber of the House of Representatives, and the apartments thereof in that story, were consumed, as were also the books and papers in the offices of the upper story. Those in the offices below were mostly saved. In the cellars, which were hired by several persons, a great quantity of wines and other liquors were lost. The public damage sustained by this sad disaster was inexpressibly great; and the loss to some particular persons, 'tis said, will amount to several thousand pounds. The vehemence of the flames occasioned such a great heat, as to set the roofs of some of the opposite houses on fire, notwithstanding they had been covered with snow, and it was extinguished with much difficulty.

[The legislature was in session at the time, and made particular inquiry into the occasion of the disaster: they ascertained to the satisfaction of the House, that the fire proceeded from the wood work under the hearth. The selectmen immediately offered the use of Faneuil Hall, but the general court preferred to occupy a room in the Royal Exchange Tavern, in King street.....The legislature adjourned on the 12th, and met again in February. When the subject of a new court house was introduced, a motion prevailed in the House that the same should be built in Cambridge: this vote was reconsidered, and another obtained, which proposed to locate it in Roxbury. This was also non-concurred. At length a resolve passed, that the old building should be repaired, and one-half the charge be borne by the Province, one-quarter by the county of Suffolk, and the other quarter by the town of Boston.....It was repaired in the year following in its present form, and is in length one hundred and twelve feet, in breadth thirty-six feet, and three stories high.]

1748. *Oct. 22.*—A sail loft near Oliver's Dock was consumed. The building was large, and besides the loft, some cooper's and blacksmith's shops were burnt; also a dwelling house. Some shops and sheds were pulled down to prevent the flames spreading. The loss must have been great.

1749. *Jan. 27.*—This day a fire broke out in a turpentine factory, which soon consumed the same, with a quantity of turpentine.

1749. *Sept. 5.*—Early in the morning, Mr. James Smith's sugar house, in Brattle street, was burnt.

1749. *Dec. 14.*—In the night a fire broke out in a brigantine lying at Long Wharf; but the tide being up, they found means to tow her off, and by the timely assistance of the people in boats, prevented her being entirely consumed.



View in Old Cornhill, Boston, at the Great Fire of 1711.

are not consumed.' Had not the glorious Lord, who has gathered the wind in his hands, mercifully kept under the wind at this time, he alone knows how much more of the town must have been consumed."

A great auditory of the inhabitants, with many from the neighboring towns, coming together on the ensuing Thursday, that they might hear the instructions of piety which might suit the present and grievous occasion, one of the ministers, who is also a native of the town, entertained them with the ensuing sermon, &c.

The text, Jer. v. 3. "*Thou hast consumed them, but they have refused to receive correction.*"

[Extracts from the sermon, with remarks.]

Page 18. "Methinks I find myself preaching a *funeral* sermon for that ancient and famous edifice, which had, from the days of our grandfathers (I suppose *nine*, [Mr. Cotton] preached the first sermon in it, sixty-five or six years ago) been the place of our most considerable so-



View in Marlboro' (now Washington) Street, Boston, 1750.

1753. *Feb. 12.*—Between 10 and 11 o'clock at night, some wicked and evil minded person attempted to set fire to a dwelling-house in this town, near Windmill Point, by putting two firebrands into an empty hogshead, which stood close by the back part of said house ; but as soon as it blazed, the light was discovered by the people within the house, and the fire extinguished.....The editor of the News Letter admonishes all "evil-minded persons" to beware how they do the like, and publishes the law, "that if any person of the age of sixteen years and upwards, shall wilfully and maliciously, by day or night, burn the dwelling-house of another, or other house, parcel thereof, or any house built for public use ; any barn having corn, grain or hay therein ; any mill, malt-house, store-house, shop or ship,—the person so offending as aforesaid, shall be deemed and adjudged to be a felon ; and shall suffer the pains of death accordingly."

1753. *July 25.*—Between 12 and 1 o'clock a fire broke out in a cooper's shop on Bronsdon's wharf, at the North End, a little below Mr. Clark's ship-yard, (being at that time low water,) which burnt with such violence and rapidity, as that in three or four hours' time

several tenements, store-houses, shops and other buildings adjacent, about thirty in number, were consumed, together with great quantities of boards, staves, mahogany, cordage, salt, and many other articles. A schooner lying near the wharf was entirely destroyed, and the sides of a sloop were burnt down to the scuppers. Several other vessels received considerable damage in their shrouds, rigging, &c., and very narrowly escaped being burnt.

1754. *Feb. 2.*—Mr. Benjamin Faneuil's stable, behind the old brick meeting-house, was burnt about 8 o'clock in the evening, and a small building adjoining; but it happening while people were up, timely assistance came; and, being a calm wet time, it was prevented from spreading any further.

1754. *April 18.*—A fire happened in the westerly part of Boston, between the hours of 10 and 11, A. M., in which four or five houses were destroyed, and twenty families burnt out. The wind was high at N. W., and great danger of the fire spreading to other parts of the town; but providentially no other damage was done.

1756. *Jan. 13.*—This morning about 5 o'clock, a fire broke out in a house in Hanover street, corner of Cole lane, (Portland street,) which destroyed the greatest part of that and several tenements adjoining, with a great deal of valuable household furniture, plate, and other things; and several persons narrowly escaped with their lives. One poor woman, who lodged in an upper room over the place where the fire first began, was burned to death, and the remains of her body found afterwards and taken out of the ruins.

1759. *Jan. 26.*—A fire was discovered to break out in a chamber of the Lamb Tavern, at the south part of the town, which began under the hearth, and burned a large beam and the flooring, but by timely assistance it was extinguished.

1759. *Jan. 29.*—A tar-house at West Boston, adjoining Mr. McDaniel's rope-walk, was burnt, together with a part of the roof of the walk. A quantity of ready made rigging and hemp, and all the working tools were destroyed. Mr. McDaniel's dwelling house was damaged; a dwelling house near it was consumed. Several other buildings caught on fire, but were providentially preserved.

1759. *May 10.*—This evening a fire broke out at a dwelling house near the Mill Bridge, which was providentially extinguished, there being a full tide.

1759. *Nov. 14.*—A fire happened in some wooden buildings, a little to the southward of Oliver's bridge, and extended to the lower end of Water street and Milk street, to Mr. Hallowell's ship-yard. It raged with great violence for two hours. Ten or twelve dwelling-houses, most of them large, besides a number of shops and other buildings, were destroyed, and between twenty and thirty families burnt out. His Excellency Gov. Pownall was present during the whole fire, whose direction and influence were very serviceable, and whose paternal care and tenderness for the distressed were quite apparent.

1760. *March 17.*—About noon a fire broke out at the West part of the town, New Boston so called, by some accident, whereby a joiner's shop was consumed, and a large dwelling-house adjoining thereto was a great part of it destroyed, and many things therein burnt, and several other houses much damaged in the neighborhood. The wind blowing very hard from the northeast, it was a considerable time before it was extinguished. The roof of the West meeting-house caught fire in several places, but by the dexterity of the people and a constant supply of water, a stop was at length put to it.

1760. *March 18.*—In the forenoon, a store at the upper end of Griffin's (now Liverpool) wharf caught fire. The chamber was used as a laboratory by a detachment of the British artillery then here. The circumstance of artillery stores being in the building, gave general alarm, and for a time the citizens were afraid to approach near it. The fire communicated to some powder, and the building blew up. In the explosion some men were hurt; two grenadoes and some small arms went off, but did no damage. The extreme parts of the town were affected by the shock of the explosion. A carpenter's shop was also burnt. It stood between the laboratory and some warehouses on the end of the wharf, where the principal artillery stores were deposited; but the wind being moderate, and a full tide, the flames were prevented from spreading farther.

1760. *March 19.*—Various parts of the town were alarmed by the cry of fire, during the day, but no great damage was done.

1760. *March 20.*—About two o'clock this morning, a fire broke out in the dwelling-house of Mrs. Mary Jackson and Son, at the Brazen Head in Cornhill. At its first appearance there was little wind; but this calm was soon followed by a smart gale from the northwest. Then was beheld a perfect torrent of blaze, bearing down all before it; in a seeming instant all was flame. Three or four large buildings in the front of the street were burnt, and a stop was put to it there, at the house improved by Mrs. West on the south, and Mr. Peter Cotta on the north. But the fire raged most violently towards the east, the wind being strong, and carried all before it from the back sides of those houses. All the stores fronting Pudding lane, (now Devonshire street,) together with every dwelling-house from thence, excepting those which front the south side of King (now State) street and a store of Mr. Spooner's, on Water street, to Quaker lane, (now Congress street,) and from thence, only leaving a large old wooden house belonging to the late Cornelius Waldo, Esq., it burnt every house, shop, store, out-house and shed, to Oliver's Dock. An eddy of wind carrying the fire contrary to its course, it took the buildings fronting the lower part of King street, and destroyed the houses from the corner opposite the Bunch of Grapes tavern, to the warehouse of Box & Austin, leaving only the warehouse of the Hon. John Erving and the dwelling-house of Mr. Hastings standing. The other brick warehouses towards Long wharf were considerably damaged.

On the southeast part, the fire extended from Mr. Torrey's the baker, in Water street, and damaging some of Mr. Dalton's new shops, proceeded to Mr. Hall's working-house, and from thence to Milk street, and consumed every house, from the next to Mr. Calfe's dwelling house, (Julian Restorator, corner of Milk and Congress streets,) to the bottom of the street.

In the opposite direction from Mr. Dowse's, included, it destroyed every house to Fort Hill, except the Hon. Secretary Oliver's and two or three tenements opposite; as also every house, warehouse, shop and store, from Oliver's Dock along Mr. Hallowell's ship-yard and dwelling-house, the Sconce of the South Battery, all the buildings, shops and stores on Col. Wendell's wharf, to the house of Mr. Hunt, ship-builder. So that from Pudding lane to the water's edge, there was not a building to be seen, excepting those on the side of King street, and the others just mentioned. Besides which one large ship and eight or nine small vessels were burnt. The fire did not extend to the north side of King street.

There was a large quantity of powder in the Sconce of the Battery, which blew up, throwing the stones and timbers to a great distance, and caused a very great explosion, which, with the light of the fire, was heard and seen many miles in the country, and on the sea coast. It is impossible, and therefore it would be vain to set forth the distressed condition of those who inhabited the buildings which were consumed, scarce knowing where to take shelter from the rage of the fire, which had so got the mastery as to carry all before it, spreading destruction wherever the flames reached. The rage of the fire was not over till near noon; but notwithstanding its long continuance, the explosion, and the falling of walls and chimneys, no lives were lost, and only a few persons were wounded.

Means were immediately taken by the authorities of the town to ascertain the amount of losses, and a spirit of sympathy was every where excited in behalf of the sufferers. Each individual furnished a schedule of the articles he missed, with his own valuation of them, to a committee appointed for the purpose. Where this committee thought the valuation just, they adopted it; where they thought it was too high, they curtailed it.

The whole sum thus ascertained amounted to £71,112, 7s. 3d. lawful money; of which £44,121, 6s. 8d. was in real estate. The Quaker meeting-house, 133 dwelling-houses, 36 barns, 63 stores, 66 shops, in all 299 buildings, were destroyed. Sarah Ayers and 438 other sufferers petitioned parliament for relief, but we have no account, that any was received from that source. But donations were received from various sources amounting in all to £22,107, 1s. 6d.

After this event, the town embraced the opportunity offered for improvements in streets, and a law was passed by the General Court, in the June succeeding, to regulate the building of houses on the spots laid waste.

Destruction of the Boston Steam Bakery, Feb. 1859.

THE new mammoth Steam Bakery on Commercial street, making the corners both of Salutation and Battery streets, Boston, was discovered to be on fire on the morning of Sunday, Feb., 6, 1859, about half-past 2 o'clock. Though discovered at an early period, the efforts to save it were fruitless, and the immense building, together with several in the neighborhood, was destroyed. The fire was attended by a large destruction of property, and also, we regret to state, by the loss of human life.

The building was six stories in height, with a width of 64 feet, and a depth of 130 feet. It was surrounded, with the exception of the front, with numerous buildings, mostly wooden, of inferior size and value. The front portion, with the exception of the salesroom, was occupied as a warehouse for the storage of flour, extending through the six stories; and the rear, by the extensive Steam Bakery, owned by Joseph G. Russell, a gentleman well known in that city for his wealth and enterprise.

The fire was discovered in the fourth story among some boxes or troughs, used to set the dough before being made into loaves. Several of these had been filled with shavings, to which the torch of the incendiary was applied. There were four men, (two were watchmen,) on the premises at the time, and two were at work in the building; but such was the speed of the flames, that they had gained considerable headway before the alarm was given. The Fire Department rallied to the scene of conflagration with its accustomed celerity, and the two steam machines were promptly on hand, yet before either had got fairly into playing condition, the flames were spreading upwards and outwards with fearful rapidity. For a time, so great was the height of the building, that but little water could be brought to bear; but in time the adjacent dock appeared to be belching up its exhaustless contents. The steam machines once fairly in operation, vast quantities of the aqueous element were thrown upon the devastating flames. Finding the destruction of the building inevitable, the efforts of the department were devoted mainly to saving the buildings in the immediate vicinity, of which there was a large number, and of wood for the most part.

About half-past 3 o'clock, the front wall of the Bakery building, which was of granite, fell into Commercial street, accompanied by a tremendous crash, spreading dismay and consternation in every direction. It was an immense mass, and its fall endangered hundreds of lives. Just as it fell, Cataract Engine Company No. 4, was passing through Battery street. The leading man upon the rope had reached Commercial street. A colored man named Daniel Henson, who had been attached to the company for several years, though not a member,

was instantly killed by the falling mass. His back and both legs, near the thigh, were broken, and his skull was fractured. Those near him escaped injury as if by miracle. Henson was upon the right side of the rope; the man immediately adjoining on the left, escaped. It was a narrow escape for some dozen of the men.

The loss by this conflagration was about \$800,000. Mr. Russell was of course the heaviest loser. The building and fixtures were valued at \$175,000, on which there was an insurance of \$50,000, as follows: Royal office, London, \$10,000; Firemen's, Boston, \$10,000; Elliot, \$10,000; North American, \$8000; City, \$6000, and Washington, \$6000.

There were about 18,000 barrels of flour stored in the building, belonging to various parties, nearly all of which was destroyed. Mr. Russell had about 3,000 barrels. On the whole amount of flour there was an insurance of \$49,500, in various offices.

Messrs. Googins & Stodder, provision dealers, had a quantity of pork stored in the large building, all of which was lost. There was plenty of roast pork at one time, and plenty who would have been glad to eat it, but it could not be got at.

Thousands of persons visited the scene of devastation the next day. The locality was enclosed with ropes, and policemen were stationed to guard them. The two steamers were at work all day.

The remaining wall of the building was pulled down on Tuesday, Mr. Russell having employed a gang of men for the purpose.

The Bakery was only started on Wednesday the 2d of Feb. Mr. Russell had been nearly two years in preparing the machinery, &c.

The Cataract Engine Company attended the funeral of Henson, which took place at Father Henson's church, Joy street. The body was deposited at the receiving tomb at Woodlawn Cemetery. The Boston Fire Department were invited to attend the funeral. The young man was a nephew of Father Henson, a minister in Boston.

There are circumstances of the most singular nature connected with the fire, and which indicate that it was not only the work of an incendiary, but by parties who were actuated by the basest of motives. The watch-dog of the establishment was stolen on the preceding Friday, and on Saturday, the key to the outside door of the Bakery was stolen. A quantity of powder was placed among the coals on Friday, with the view, as is supposed, to cause an explosion. Fortunately, when the coal was placed in the furnace, it did but little damage except to harm the fireman, who was confined to his house for some time. From certain movements, Mr. Russell had reason to anticipate injury from interested quarters, and went over the establishment as late as 1 o'clock on Saturday night, to see if everything was safe. It is not uncommon, when a great interest or department in trade is injured by any unusual enterprise, that those so injured retaliate in a manner having no regard to reason or justice. Perhaps this was a case of this nature.

Immediately upon the falling of the front wall, the flames appeared

to gather new force, as if freed from their pent up confines, and shot up and out with great brilliancy and force. The firemen, however, were compelled to use great caution, the remainder of the tall walls threatening destruction at every moment.

The building, the Bakery excepted, was filled with flour, on storage, and owned by various parties. There were 18,000 barrels, necessarily making a ponderous weight, which pressed heavily on the sides of the building. The support of the roof no sooner being removed by the flames, than the heavy front was forced out, and those of the two sides soon followed.

On Salutation street the destruction was extensive, and the scene was one confused mass of ruins. The building on the corner and nearest the Bakery, a two-story wooden structure, owned by Deacon Eben Shute, of the first police, and occupied by Googins & Stodder, provision dealers, making 370 Commercial street, was demolished by the descending wall. The prostration and destruction were complete, and was a scene of ruins, indeed, such as is rarely witnessed. The adjoining building, 368, also owned by Mr. Shute, was injured somewhat, a portion of the roof having been forced in, and a chimney or two thrown down. It was occupied in part by Joseph Visall, hair-dresser.

In the rear of Mr. Shute's, on Salutation street, was a two-story wooden building, owned by Abraham Allcock, and occupied by himself and also by John Hammond and a man named Brown. This was ruined, the loss being about \$1000. Mr. Allcock was found in the cellar badly injured. He was taken to the Webster House, where his wounds were dressed, and from thence to the Hospital, where he died on the 16th of Feb. He was 75 years of age, and a single man.

The building No. 17, immediately in the rear of the Bakery, a three story dwelling house, owned by John Woolly, was entirely destroyed by a falling wall. It was occupied by five families.

No. 18 was occupied by Thomas Williams. The roof of the building was partially demolished. It was owned by widow Oliver.

Among those who were injured, not mentioned before, were officer Wm. Hunt of the Harbor police, who had the bones in one of his hands broken; Luther White, who came near losing his life while in a house on Salutation street, when the southern wall fell; Frank Mansur, a machinist, living at 62 Albany street, had one leg broken; Chief Engineer Bird and Assistant N. W. Pratt, were hit by falling bricks; Capt. Calvin C. Wilson, of the steam fire engine Eclipse, was struck in the back, and several others. None of the injuries proved fatal except that of Mr. Allcock.

Upon the buildings in the vicinity of the Bakery, which were more or less damaged, were insurances as follows:

On Commercial street—Googins & Stodder \$3000, in the North American office; Ebenezer Shute \$2500, in the Merchants'; On Salutation street—J. Woolly insured \$600 in the American office; on Battery street—Heirs of M. Parkman, \$700 in the Firemen's office.

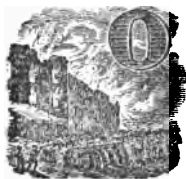
It was seen that the total amount of insurance, as above, is \$106,800; but this does not half cover the actual loss. In addition, it is stated that the Royal office of London has \$10,000 more insurance upon the flour destroyed. Among the sufferers are the following: Abel G. Farwell & Co., No. 8 Central wharf, about 8000 barrels; loss about \$25,000; insurance \$20,000. Chickering, Maynard & Co., No. 64 Commercial street, 1668 barrels; insurance, \$10,000.

Harvey Scudder & Co., No. 28 East Clinton street, about 1600 barrels; loss about \$10,000; insurance \$10,000; Pottle, Taylor & Crockett, No. 30 Central wharf, about 1000 barrels; loss from \$5000 to \$7000; fully covered by insurance at the New England office; Tower, Whitcher & Co., corner of Charlestown and Stillman streets, upwards of 1000 barrels; loss about \$10,000; fully covered by insurance; S. G. Bowdlear & Co., Nos. 192 and 194 State street, 420 barrels; loss \$2800, insured; Wasley P. Balch, No. 67 Commercial street, about 800 barrels; loss \$2200 or \$2300, insured; Faxon & Brother, No. 11 Commercial street, about 200 barrels; loss \$1200; insured; David Humphery & Co., No. 214 State street, 200 or 300; W. G. Goderam & Co., City wharf, 200 or 300 barrels.

A fireman living in Salutation street within a stone's throw of the building, says he was awakened at the first alarm, and before he could get out of doors, the entire structure was wrapped in flames. When the firemen placed the ladders against the wall, which in falling caused the death of the faithful colored man, they had no idea that the conflagration had made such headway in the interior of the building. A watchman had been kept in the establishment day and night. On Saturday night, Mr. Russell's last act previous to leaving the building was to see that all the inner as well as the outer doors were secure, and to give special directions to the engineer and fireman, who had agreed to remain through the night, to keep a vigilant lookout. He then left by the front door, locking it after him. Sometime afterwards, the men who were in the basement hearing a noise in the third story, rushed up stairs, and to their astonishment found in some boxes, which were heaped up around a post, a basket of shavings, with a lighted jet of gas turned upon it. The basket and contents were all on fire, and the flames had already communicated with the flooring above, which was directly over the oven, and of course very dry.

The men seized the basket and threw it down the scuttle into the basement, where it landed under a flight of stairs, setting them on fire; and finding that there was no possibility of their stopping the progress of the flames, they gave the alarm. Mr. Russell, who had barely reached his residence in Temple street, hearing the alarm, and seeing the light of the fire in the direction of his establishment, hastened thence, and found the front door open—he having locked it but a short time previous, putting the key in his pocket. He also found some of the inner doors open, which he had fastened previous to leaving for the night.

Burning of the Coach and Horse Tavern, London.



ON the morning of Jan. 24th, 1851, a fire occurred in St. Martin's Lane, London, Eng., which was the most calamitous conflagration which had happened in that metropolis for years. The building was known as the Coach and Horse Tavern, being three stories high, and had three rooms on each floor. In the attic slept three children, together with the deceased, Ruth Lowe, Edward Noakes, and Samuel Lowe. The second floor front room was occupied by Mrs. Caunt; the middle room contained a spare bed; and in the third, or back room, slept the nurse, Betsy Butler, with an infant child of Mrs. Caunt's. Mr. Caunt had left town on Tuesday afternoon for Lewisham; and Mrs. Caunt, having closed the house about 2 o'clock that morning, retired to rest; before doing so she requested a niece, who was staying with her on a visit, and who had hitherto occupied the second floor spare room, to sleep with her that night. The young woman consented, and went into her room to fetch her night dress, taking opportunity at the same time, by request of her aunt, to examine the apartment and look under the bed to see that no one was concealed in the house. She had a candle in her hand while thus engaged, and, from subsequent occurrences, there appears too much reason to fear that an accidental spark falling upon some combustible material in this room, must have occasioned the catastrophe.

Mrs. Caunt had only been in bed a very few moments, when she was aroused by the waiter, calling out from the third floor that the house was on fire, and urging his mistress to make her escape. Mrs. Caunt roused her niece instantly, and rushing out of her own room, entered the middle room for the purpose of alarming the nurse, who was sleeping with her infant in the back room. As soon as she opened the door, Mrs. Caunt was nearly overpowered by the flames and smoke with which the room was filled. She rushed forward, however, and, forcing open the door of the third room, called to the nurse to bring out her child. The nurse snatched up the child, and followed Mrs. Caunt out of the room, literally walking through the flames with which the apartment was filled.

During this terrible interval, Noakes, the waiter, had opened the trap-door on the roof, and was busily engaged in handing the parties who slept in this part of the house on to the leads, and thence down through a skylight, into the adjoining dwelling. The bar-maid, the maid servant, the potman, and Mr. Caunt's eldest son, were all rescued in this manner and placed in safety by Noakes, who returned to look for the other children, but unfortunately too late to save them. It appears that in their alarm they had got out of bed, and hidden themselves beneath it, and here, when the fire was got under, the brigade men found their charred remains burnt almost to a cinder. The body of Ruth Lowe a fine young woman, aged 18, was found in another part of the house extended on the floor, and reduced to an almost shapeless mass.

Description of Phillips' Fire Annihilator.



ON page thirty-nine of this volume, we began an account of the celebrated Fire Annihilator of Mr. Phillips, of London, and now present further particulars of the construction of the apparatus, illustrated with correct engravings. Whether the machine prove of practical utility or not, conversation will often turn on this subject, and it will be interesting to the reader to have it in his power to refer at once to a correct account of the whole affair.

The machine for ordinary use, (two or three of which Mr. Phillips would recommend to be kept in readiness in dwelling houses,) is 16 inches in height by 10 in diameter, and weighing nearly 40 pounds. It consists of an outer iron case, with a chamber at the bottom containing water—two cylindrical cases, one inside the other, perforated with holes. In the inner case is placed the charge which generates the vapor; in the centre of the charge is a hole of three or four inches in depth; into this hole is placed a glass bottle containing the priming of the charge; this being broken, ignition of the charge takes place. This is effected by a small iron piston, placed in the cover of the machine, being driven down forcibly. To prevent an accidental ignition of the charge, this piston is protected by a wooden plug at the top of the cover, and which is taken out on the machine being wanted, the smaller end of the plug serving as an instrument for striking down the piston, and thus breaking the bottle, igniting the charge, and causing an instantaneous emission of the vapor, in which flame cannot exist.



Phillips' Fire Annihilator.

The work of charging the Portable Fire Annihilator is performed in a minute. The two lids, E and F, being taken off, the charge, (which is already provided with the igniter bottle,) is introduced, and the two lids are replaced, the outer one being secured by a thumb-screw. The igniter pin is placed in the neck and covered over with the wooden

stopper, and this may be sealed down at pleasure. Water is then poured into the handle, and confined by a small screw plug.

The charge A is a compound of charcoal, nitre and gypsum, moulded into the form of a brick. The igniter, I, is a glass tube enclosing two bottles, one containing a few drops of sulphuric acid, placed over another containing a mixture of chlorate of potassa and sugar.



Hand Fire Annihilator.



Interior View.

The Portable Fire Annihilator is composed of a set of light iron cases, thus arranged :—A and B, the two outer cases, forming a close water chamber. C and D, two inner cases perforated in such a manner as to allow the free passage of vapor. E, the inner lid. F, the outer lid, or cover. G, a waterpipe, forming the handle. H, the charge. I, the igniter. K, the igniting pin.

DIRECTIONS FOR USE.

Carry the machine to the place on fire ; take out the wooden stopper ; with the knob of the stopper strike down the plug or pin in the neck of the machine ; hold the machine by the handle, in the best position for the vapor, which will come out of the hole on the top, to reach the flame, which is almost momentarily extinguished.

The action of the portable machine is as follows :—The pin being forced down, breaks the igniter bottles ; the sulphuric acid falling on the mixture of chlorate of potassa and sugar, ignition takes place ; the flame of the ignition mixture spreading over the upper surface of the charge, the charge instantaneously ignites and evolves heated gases, which, in their passage through the perforated cylinders, impinge against the water chamber, expand the contained air, and produce steam, by which the water is forced through the tubular passage. The steam of the water mixing in the annular chamber with the hot gases, they escape together, from the discharge tube in a dense expansive cloud, and are continuously delivered until the charge and water are expended.

Fires and Firemen in Russia.



View of the Exchange at St. Petersburg.

N Russia, as the houses are in general built entirely with timber, fires are very frequent, and necessarily involve the danger of more extensive desolation than is likely to take place where the buildings are of less combustible materials. The

fire by which the town of Tula was desolated in 1834, affords an instance to which nothing similar, as to the extent of destruction, has occurred since the great fire of London. It may therefore be interesting to state some of the usages which prevail in cases of fire in the towns and villages of a country thus peculiarly circumstanced.

In places where there are no Fire Engines, or where the supply of water is not abundant, or cannot be made available at the moment, the most usual and effective process is to pull down some of the houses which intervene between the fire and the direction in which the flames are impelled by the wind. In point of fact, this is often a far more effectual process than the employment of engines. In passing through Russia, the writer generally observed that fires were most destructive in towns possessing engines and a good supply of water, on which dependence had been placed for the extinction of the flames: whereas in villages destitute of these apparent advantages, the progress of the flames was, in most instances, intercepted by a prompt resort to the above process. In the other cases, it is only resorted to after the engines have been tried and have failed to bring the flames under; and by that time it is sometimes too late to employ with effect the process by which the progress of the fire might easily have been checked in the first instance.

The writer, among other cases, observed that at the town of Vishnei Volotchok, which possessed engines, a long line of the best houses in the place, fronting a fine navigable river, had been recently burnt down. Afterwards, while waiting a day or two at the village of Catherinengard for the assembling of the Caucasus caravan, a fire broke out at night with great fury in the house of a shopkeeper. As there were no fire engines, and as the fire was at a considerable distance from the river,

which there flowed through a deep channel, and was of difficult access, the strangers were fully prepared to expect that the half of the village which lay between the fire and the river would be completely destroyed, as the breeze blew in that direction. But the people and soldiers set to work with great energy in pulling down the house next to that which was on fire, and in the morning it was found that the injury had been limited to the house in which the fire commenced and that which had been taken down. Such water as could be procured was thrown upon the flames in the one house, while another party was employed in taking down the next.

It should be mentioned that, at least in some parts of Russia, the inhabitants entertain the superstitious opinion that nothing is so effectual as milk in extinguishing fires which have been kindled by lightning. Hence fires which thus originate are far more destructive than any others; for in consequence of the small quantity of milk which it is possible to procure, whole villages are destroyed which might probably have been saved by a plentiful supply of water, and still more probably by the process to which we have just adverted. This superstitious fancy also prevails in some parts of Germany.

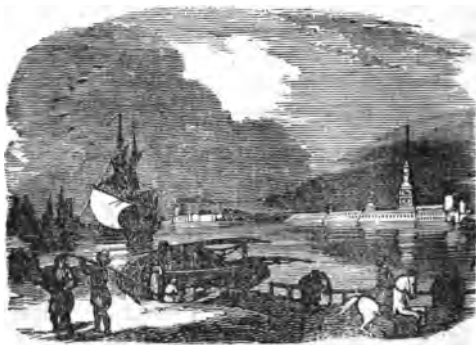
There is perhaps in no place a more remarkable regulation for the prevention or extinction of fires, than that which is in force at Tsherkask, the capital of the Don Cosacks. On a board which is hung out in public view at each door, are painted figures of the instruments which each housekeeper is bound to have in readiness, and to attend with when a calamity of this description occurs. Thus, for instance, at one door is painted the representation of a hatchet; at another, that of a water barrel; and at a third, that of buckets, crow-bars, ladders, or other requisites. On the first alarm of fire, the housekeepers are expected to attend at the spot with their respective apparatus, as denoted by the figures at their doors. Thus an adequate supply of all the articles which may be wanted on such occasions is secured; and in the absence of organized fire establishments, perhaps a much better plan than this could not be devised.

In Moscow there is a regular establishment for extinguishing fires; and in appearance, if not in efficiency, it is probably not exceeded by any single establishment in Europe. The building which forms its head-quarters is a large edifice of three stories, surmounted by an elevated watch-tower; it has two wings, and the internal square is surrounded with excellent and extensive stables, smiths' shops, houses for the fire engines, wagons, and fire apparatus, and with dwellings for the police and the firemen. Everything is there kept in the best order; the houses are good, the engines are excellent, and always in readiness to be started at a moment's warning in cases of fire; the horses also are mostly fine animals. In summer, the whole regiment of firemen, horses and fire apparatus, is turned out to *water the streets*. When grand entertainments are given by the court or by the nobility, the fire engines and apparatus, the firemen and the police, are all stationed around the building.

This establishment looks better than it acts. In St. Petersburg the system pursued more nearly assimilates to that of London, and is really much more effective than that of Moscow. The whole establishment is under the control of the police, and the fire engines, which are precisely similar to those of London, are kept in constant readiness at the several police stations. The number of these engines is very considerable, and the firemen form a regiment regularly trained and marshalled. A uniform process is followed in every case of fire. As soon as the watchman upon any of the towers discovers a fire, and by certain stipulated signals has indicated the district in which it is raging, the fire engines start from every station in the city, and proceed to the spot in a given number of minutes, which is regulated for every station in proportion to the distance which it happens to be from the fire. Each of the police stations sends two fire engines; a third carriage conveys the firemen, four others are laden with large tanks of water, and another follows laden with fire ladders and escapes. The principal functionaries of the city and of the police are bound to give their personal attendance at fires.

It is only within a few years that a Fire Insurance Company has been established at St. Petersburg. Dr. Granville informs us that, until the foundation of this company, houses in the Russian capital were commonly insured in the Phoenix Fire Office in London.

After the statement of the combustible character of Russian houses, it might be supposed that the inhabitants in general would be more than commonly anxious to preclude danger from fire, and would exhibit much caution in the use of that which is required in manufactures and domestic affairs. The writer himself, however, is unable to recollect that any instance of this struck his attention in the course of an extensive journey through Russia. A traveller, however, relates that, at Dedilof, which had often been reduced to ashes, the inhabitants dreaded the very sight of a tobacco-pipe. Seeing him kindling his pipe, the *Starosta* of the place came to him to request that he would not use it, especially in the open air, as a casual spark might again involve the inhabitants in flames.



Distant View of St. Petersburg.

Fire in Providence, R. I., and Loss of Life.



ONE of the most distressing scenes to which the Firemen of Providence were ever called, was at a fire on the morning of Nov. 20, 1849. The alarm was given about three o'clock, and its cause was soon spread far and wide by the flames ascending from the spacious mansion of Mrs. Anna Jenkins, on Benefit street, which in a short time was a heap of smoking ruins, with all its valuable contents, including human lives. The origin of the fire is traced to a furnace in the cellar for warming the building, and the flames were first seen breaking out at the southwest corner. The greatest efforts were made to arrest the destroying element in its course, but a sufficiency of water was not at hand, and there was much delay in procuring it from a distance; and even had there been a full supply of water, yet the building was of wood, and highly combustible, and it is not probable that the house or much of its furniture could have been saved. The matron and her family, unconscious of danger, awoke from their repose to a scene of dismay, some of them to escape through the wildest perils, and others to meet death in its most appalling shape. Of this once elegant mansion, one chimney only remained standing; the walls of the house, with the exception of one corner, were levelled and destroyed.

In the height of the fire, three servants were seen descending by a lightning rod, and three more inmates saved themselves by means of a ladder. The youngest Miss Jenkins went out on the roof of the one story wing of the house, holding her mother's hand, and stepped on to the ladder which had been placed there, descended and was saved. She parted hands with her mother at the top of the ladder, but the latter did not follow, and it is supposed that she fell back, suffocated by the smoke, and there expired. Her other daughter was not seen, and she was probably suffocated by the smoke in her room, as persons who were in the house early, and before the flames had got much vent, said it was impossible to breathe long in such dense smoke.

The scathed remains of two human beings were found among the smouldering embers, which must have been those of Mrs. Anna Jenkins and her eldest daughter. This was indeed a melancholy casualty, which thus hurried to the grave a woman most deservedly respected and beloved, who devoted much of her time, and no inconsiderable portion of her large income, to deeds of charity, and was emphatically "a ministering angel" to those who were in poverty, distress or affliction, and made their condition known to her. The daughter also was accomplished, benevolent and beloved; but they have gone forever from weeping relatives and friends, and their good deeds rise up as a memorial of departed excellence, and form an enduring monument of their worth.

Plans for Extinguishing Fires without the Aid of Engines—Invention of Greyl—Godfrey's "Water Bombs"—Fuches, Phillips, &c.



THE world has long been of the opinion that a more ready way than that in general use might be found for extinguishing fires in buildings, and many attempts have been made to supersede the use of Fire Engines. An account of some of these inventions will go to prove that the idea of Phillips' Fire Annihilator is not altogether new. Zachary Greyl was the first person who put this plan into execution with any tolerable degree of success. About the year 1700, he contrived certain engines, easily manageable, which he proved before some persons of

the first rank to be of sufficient efficacy, and offered to discover the secret by which they were contrived, for a large premium given either from the crown, or raised by a subscription of private persons. But this scheme meeting with no better success than things of this nature usually do, he died without making public the discovery.

Two years after this the people who had his papers found the method; and it was shown before the king of Poland and a great concourse of nobility at Dresden, and the secret purchased at a very considerable price. After this the same person carried the invention to Paris and many other places, and practised it every where with success. The secret was this: a wooden vessel was provided, holding a very considerable quantity of water; in the centre of this there was fixed a case made of iron plates, and filled with gunpowder; from this vessel, to the head of the larger vessel containing the water, there proceeded a tube or pipe, which might convey the fire very readily through the water to the gunpowder contained in the inner vessel. This tube was filled with a preparation easily taking fire, and quickly burning away; and the manner of using the engine was to convey it into the room or building where the fire was, with the powder in the tube lighted. The consequence of this was, that the powder in the inner case soon took fire, and, with a great explosion; burst the vessel to pieces, and dispersed the water every way; thus was the fire put out in an instant, though the room was flaming before in all parts at once. The advantage of this invention was, that

at a small expense, and with the help of a few people, a fire in its beginning might be extinguished ; but the thing was not so general as it was at first expected that it would prove ; for though of certain efficacy in a chamber or close building where a fire had but newly begun ; yet when the mischief had increased so far, that the house was fallen in, or the top open, the machine had no effect.

In the year 1723, Mr. Godfrey, an English chemist, invented a machine which he called a "Water Bomb," on the plan of Greyl, and impregnated it with an "antiphlogistic" substance. He considered first, that the unchangeable size of Greyl's engine was a very great objection, and on this plan contrived a medicated liquor, which was such an enemy to fire, that a very small quantity would extinguish as quick as a much larger quantity of common water ; and this liquor had the farther advantage, that it might be kept ever so long without corrupting, and by that means the vessels containing it would remain always fit for use ; whereas in Greyl's method they must have been rotted by the corrupting and fermenting of the water, after a few years. The author of this invention tried it twice publicly in London, and both times with all the success that could be wished. But the structure of the vessel was so much the same with that of Greyl's, that Godfrey cannot be allowed any farther merit as an inventor, than that of contriving the medicated liquor instead of common water. The machine was a wooden vessel, made very strong and firm, so that the liquor, when once put in, could not leak out any where. In the centre of this was an oblong cylindric vessel, which was filled with gunpowder ; a tube was brought from this to the head of the barrel ; and this being filled with combustible matter, and the inner case with powder, and both made of plate-iron, that no water might get in, the vessel was then filled with the medicated or antiphlogistic liquor. The top of the tube was then covered, and the thing set by for use.

When there was occasion for it, it was only necessary to uncover the tube, and setting fire to the matter in it, it was conveyed to the vessel containing the powder, and the whole machine being thrown into the place on fire, was torn to pieces by the explosion, and the extinguishing liquor scattered every way about, on which the fire was quenched in an instant.

The contriver of these things proposed the making of three kinds of them, the one containing five gallons of the liquor ; this was the largest size, and contrived for the largest rooms, and most urgent necessities. The second kind contained three gallons ; and the smallest, which was meant for a closet, or other little room, contained only two gallons. Those of the smaller kind also had sometimes a peculiar difference in their structure, the powder-vessel being placed not in the centre, but at the bottom : the intent of this was to fit them for chimneys, when on fire, as by this means the liquor, not being wanted to be scattered on all sides, was carried mostly upwards. These were fixed on the end of a long pole, and by this means thrust to a proper height up the chimney ; and the tube that communicated the fire was placed downwards.

The manner of using the machines for rooms on fire, was thus explained by the inventor: "The person who has the care of them is to throw them as nearly as may be into the middle of the room, and then to retire to a little distance: as soon as he hears the explosion, he may safely enter the room, and with a cloth, or anything of that kind, put out any remaining sparks of fire that there may be in particular places. If the room be so large, that one of the machines cannot disperse the liquor to every part of it, two are to be used, one being laid at each end: and if several rooms are on fire at once, as many of the machines are to be used, one being thrown into each room. If a whole house is on fire, the lower rooms are first to be taken care of, and after these the upper, as they ascend."

Mr. Godfrey had scarce better success than his predecessor, Grey; for while he was making his public experiments, one Povey, collecting some of the fragments of his broken vessels, found out the ingredients used in the medicated liquor, and made and sold the things in the same place where he had proved his right to them. It is probable that the medicated liquor was no other than common water, with a large quantity of sal ammoniac, that salt having this virtue of extinguishing fire in a remarkable degree. But it is to be greatly wondered at, that while all the world were convinced by experiments of the use of the machine, the author made but little advantage of it, and it is now disused.

The Society of Arts and Manufactures, &c., made trials of balls prepared in Mr. Godfrey's method by his grandson, in a proper edifice erected for this purpose; and they found, that, after the fire had prevailed for a considerable time, and the flame forced its way through the chimney and windows, it disappeared, and was entirely extinguished by the explosion of two of these balls.

In 1734, a premium of twenty thousand pounds was offered by the States of Sweden, for the best invention for stopping the progress of fires, which resulted in the introduction of an apparatus somewhat similar, by M. Fuches, a German chemist.

Similar inventions have been introduced at more recent dates; but after being used for a time, have passed into oblivion. Like the late invention of Mr. Phillips, they were probably of some utility while the fire was confined to the inside of a building, but useless where the flames had become wide-spread.

AN INVETERATE BURNER.—A lad was, in 1844, convicted before one of the Assizes Courts of France, on six charges of arson. It was stated that his propensity for destruction by burning was so great, that on one occasion he set fire to the clothes of some females who were asleep in a field, and who were only awakened by their agony. It is a curious fact, that whenever he had set fire to a building, he was the first to call for assistance, and appeared to be deeply affected at the misfortune of the sufferers. He was condemned to twelve years' imprisonment.

Plans for Securing Buildings against Fire.



MANY plans have been suggested for rendering buildings less liable to destruction from fire. Some eighty years ago, Dr. Hales, of England, proposed to check the progress of fires by covering the floors of the adjoining rooms with earth. The proposal is founded on an experiment which he made with a fir board half an inch thick, part of which he covered with an inch depth of damp garden mould, and then lighted a fire on the surface of the mould. Though the fire was kept up by blowing, it was two hours before the board was burnt through, and the earth prevented it from blazing. The thicker the earth is laid on the floors, the better. However, Dr. Hales apprehends that the depth of an inch will generally be sufficient; and he recommends to lay a deeper covering on the stairs, because the fire commonly ascends by them with the greatest velocity.

Mr. David Hartley made several trials in the years 1775 and 1776, in order to evince the efficacy of a method which he had invented for restraining the spread of fire in buildings. For this purpose, thin iron plates were well nailed to the tops of the joists, &c., the edges of the sides and ends being lapped over, folded together, and hammered close. Partitions, stairs, and floors, may be defended in the same manner; and plates applied to one side have been found sufficient. The plates are so thin as not to prevent the floor from being nailed on the joists, in the same manner as if this preventive was not used; they are kept from rust by being painted or varnished with oil and turpentine. The expense of this addition, when extending through a whole building, is reckoned at about five per cent. Mr. Hartley had a patent for this invention, and parliament voted a sum of money towards defraying the expense of his numerous experiments. The same preservative may also be applied to ships, furniture, &c. Mr. Hartley's patent has long since expired.

The Earl Stanhope of that period also proposed a method; but this consisted in coating various parts of a house with a thick layer of a peculiar cement, impervious to flame.

The present century has witnessed similar plans in abundance, of which we may allude to one proposed by Mr. Loudon:—"In rendering houses fire-proof, the next important object to using fire-proof materials, is that of having all the walls and partitions, and even the steps of wooden staircases, filled in with such materials as will render them in effect solid. On examining into the causes of the rapidity of the spread of the flames in London houses when on fire, it will almost invariably be found that; whatever may have occasioned the fire to break out, the rapidity of its progress has been in proportion to the greater or less extent of the lath and plaster partitions, the hollow wooden floors, and the wooden staircases." His proposition is to fill up all the vacuities behind such places with powdered earth or sand.

Burning of the National Theatre and three Churches, New York, Sept. 23, 1839.



ON Monday afternoon, Sept. 23, 1839, some of the persons employed in the National Theatre, corner of Leonard and Church streets, New York, discovered fire in the vicinity of the gas room, which they endeavored to extinguish with a small force-pump, but were soon obliged to relinquish it, and make good their retreat. The building was soon enveloped in flames, which communicated to the adjoining French Episcopal Church, corner of Franklin and Church streets, and to the African Church, opposite, on the corner of Leonard and Church streets. The outside of these buildings, and their contents, were entirely destroyed. The rear gable end and part of one of the side walls of the Theatre fell, destroying the rear part of the two story brick front dwelling, No. 14 Leonard street, and setting fire to the Stone Dutch Reformed Church, in Franklin street, between Chapel and Church streets, the inside of which, together with the roof of the two story school house next adjoining, and belonging to the Church, were destroyed.

The Theatre was owned by Messrs. Ayman & Co., and O. Mauran, and leased by Mr. James Wallack, whose loss was estimated at about \$25,000—no insurance. The building was valued at \$60,000, and insured for \$30,000.

The French Protestant Episcopal Church "du Esprit," was a splendid edifice of white marble, the portico in front supported by very large granite pillars. It was erected in 1822, and cost about \$80,000. The fine organ and most of the furniture were saved, but very much damaged. There was an insurance on the church of \$24,000.

The Dutch Reformed Church, under the pastoral care of Rev. J. Harkness, was almost a total loss, the walls only remaining. Insured for \$10,000.

The Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church was built in 1820, and cost \$18,000. Insured for \$8,000, which was the full amount of its value.

Numerous other buildings, dwelling houses, &c., were more or less injured—some nearly destroyed. The amount of property destroyed was estimated at \$220,000—insurance \$112,000. The spectacle of the fire is represented to have been one of great magnificence and splendor.

CAUSE OF THE FIRE.—This remains a mystery. It was asserted that the man whose business it was to take care of the gas, left the gasometer open, which filled the house, and kept a candle burning, which ignited the gas, thus causing an explosion and almost electric diffusion of the flames to every quarter of the house.

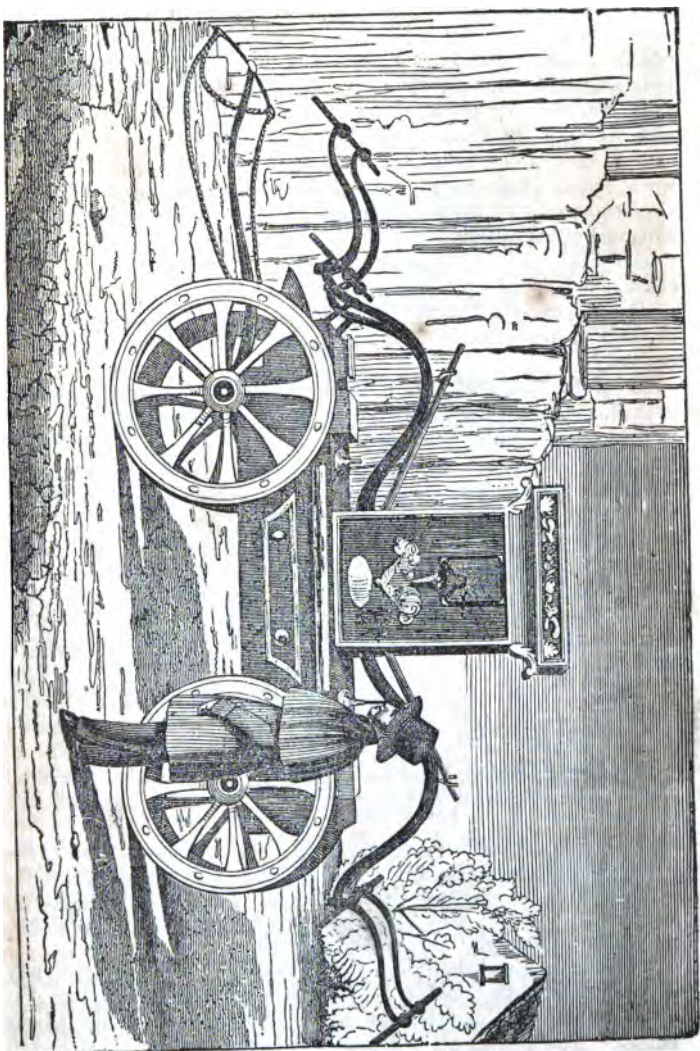
The National Theatre burnt a Second Time, May 21, 1841, with Loss of Life.



ON Saturday morning, May 29th, 1841, between 7 and 8 o'clock, the National Theatre, which had been rebuilt in a style of great splendor on the site of the former ruins, was again entirely destroyed by fire, and the disaster rendered melancholy by the loss of life. The fire was doubtless the work of an incendiary, as a bold attempt had been made on the evening previous to burn the house. About 5 o'clock on that evening, Mr. Burton, the manager, arrived from a visit to Philadelphia, and accompanied by Mr. Wemyss, the stage manager, walked to the theatre. Mr. Burton, on entering the theatre by the rear entrance, was met by Mr. Okie, one of the company, who remarked that he thought he smelt fire about the house. Messrs. Burton and Wemyss immediately commenced a search. In the promptor's box they found that fire had been set in three different places, the flames being then in brisk progress. These were immediately extinguished, but on further search being made, it was found that the pit ticket office was on fire in two different places. A quantity of spirits of turpentine had been thrown into a box of loose rubbish, and the whole set on fire. The bottom of the rear door of the office was also set on fire, and was burned nearly through.

Mr. Russell, the treasurer, with Mr. Glessing, his assistant, had by this time commenced a search in another quarter. They found that a fire had been set with papers and spirits of turpentine, under the staircase leading from the rear of the box office to the suite of apartments above occupied by Mr. Russell and his family. This fire had made considerable progress, and was extinguished with difficulty. In a room in the second story adjacent to Mr. Russell's rooms, two other fires were found burning. Spirits of turpentine had been strewn over a pile of theatre tickets and set on fire; and in another part of the room, a large quantity of manuscript music and other papers had been set on fire, and were still burning. These fires were also happily and timely extinguished. While this search was in progress, a roll of paper was thrown from an upper story window into Leonard street, which was picked up by Mr. Smith, of the Refectory, and which on examination was found to contain a quantity of friction matches. In the Turkish Saloon below was found part of a box of matches, which corresponded in quality and appearance with those found in the street. An attempt had also evidently been made to fire the saloon. Timely discovery having frustrated the design of the incendiary, the performances went on as usual.

At the close of the performances, Mr. Burton, with Messrs. Wemyss and Russell, remained on the premises until about half past three, and had a thorough search through every part, and the establishment appear-



The Philadelphia Fire Engine.

ed perfectly safe. Mr. Russell then retired to his room in the theatre, and went to bed. He rose shortly after six, and went to the stage door in the rear of the building, and stood in conversation with the private watchman of the house. Whilst thus occupied, something was seen to fall from one of the upper rooms; and, in a very few moments, flames were seen to proceed from several different parts of the building. The alarm was instantly given—but so rapid was the destruction, that it was with difficulty Mr. Russell rescued his wife, who was in bed. As it was, she was carried out, rolled up in the bed clothes, as the slightest delay would have endangered the lives of all those intent on rescuing her.

Not a vestige of the wardrobe was saved. Mr. Burton was a severe sufferer by this calamity—all of his valuable wardrobe having arrived from Philadelphia but a few days previous. Miss Cushman and Messrs. Shaw and Howard were losers to a large amount.

The walls of the building were so slightly constructed, that the lives of the Firemen were considered in danger from the first breaking out of the fire.

Mr. John T. Rollins, one of the most intelligent engineers of the fire department, stated that he lived close by the theatre, and was on the spot in a very few minutes—that he went inside the theatre immediately, and saw no fire except on the stage and scenery, which was then blazing. There was then no fire in front of the proscenium; and it was his opinion that the fire was placed on the stage or near the scenes, in less than half an hour from the time he first saw it. Such was the general opinion; because fire does not smoulder long in the neighborhood of theatrical scenery, before it runs like a lighted train of gunpowder.

The Chief Engineer said that before the fire burst through the box doors, and within fifteen minutes of its discovery, he saw it breaking through at the back of the theatre. He warned all the people living in the rear to clear out, because in less than five minutes after the fire broke out in the rear, he saw the miserably flimsy wall cracking and yielding in every part, unable to bear the weight of the roof. And before the inmates of the house of ill-fame in the rear, kept by Julia Brown, had time to make their escape, the wall gave way and fell on the back part of the house, killing one girl named Margaret Yager, aged 16, who had recently arrived from Philadelphia. Thus one miserable young creature was hurried into eternity, with all her sins upon her head, through the shameful manner in which the rear wall of the theatre was built. Several other persons were bruised, but escaped almost miraculously through the ruins and rubbish.

The rear wall and the side wall on Franklin street both gave way in so short a time after the fire began, that it was by the mercy of Providence alone that numbers were not crushed to death in the adjoining houses. The mortar all fell from the bricks, and the latter looked as clean almost as when new; and the whole building was down to the ground in *less than one hour*, except part of the front wall and the side wall on Leonard street. But these bulged out so much and looked so

slim and ghastly, that the engineers gave orders to have them immediately pulled down, in order to save the lives of the passers by.

The young girl who was killed presented a sad spectacle. She was lying on the floor of the back attic, the roof of which was all gone, and the whole open to the light of day. Surrounded by bricks and mortar, and pieces of burnt timber, there lay that young and recently innocent girl, with nothing around her small limbs but her night dress, her side crushed in near her heart, her mild blue eyes open in death, apparently gazing on the blue vault of heaven above her, her very beautiful fair hair streaming dishevelled down her neck and bosom, then white and cold as the Parian marble; and yet from the smile playing around her mouth, it seemed impossible to realize that she was dead—so young, so fair, so guilty, and so early called. Around her stood one or two of her former companions in shame, weeping bitterly; and the group was made up of the toil-worn, smoke-covered Firemen, who had extricated her mangled remains from the ruins around her.

The French Protestant Episcopal Church was injured in the roof by fire, and in the interior by water. The dwelling houses next to it, Nos. 103, 105 and 107 Franklin street, were damaged by the fall of the wall of the theatre; and the Dutch Reformed Church in Franklin street, adjoining No. 107, took fire also in the roof, but was soon extinguished. The African Church, on the corner of Leonard and Church streets, opposite the theatre, caught also in the roof, but the fire was soon checked, with but little damage.

The Firemen were deserving of all praise for their energetic and successful exertions in stopping the spread of the conflagration.

A man, name unknown, who occupied the same apartment with the unfortunate female who lost her life, to save himself leaped from a window, and in his fall badly fractured his thigh. He left behind his pocket book, containing \$600, which was consumed.

The number of persons thrown out of employ, and many of them entirely destitute, was about 150. The theatre was built by Mr. Wilson, the former manager, for a company of stockholders, and but \$25,000 insurance had been effected. Mr. Burton was not insured for a cent.

Great exertions were made by the city authorities and the proprietors of the theatre to ferret out and bring to punishment the incendiary, but without avail. Two persons employed about the theatre were arrested on suspicion of having fired the building, and held for examination, and although the opinion was general that one of them at least was in some way connected with the nefarious transaction, nothing could be proved against them, and they were discharged for want of evidence.

The National Theatre having been twice burnt within so short a time, and the location not being altogether desirable, the proprietors concluded not to rebuild the edifice.

A Valuable Chapter for Firemen.

SIMPLE RELIEF FOR BURNS AND SCALDS.



THE frequent personal injuries to Firemen and others by burns and scalds, render the following interesting information, furnished by Dr. D. M. Reese, very appropriate in this volume. He says :—Among the most numerous cases brought into the surgical wards of hospitals, everywhere, may be reckoned the injuries received by burns and scalds, which, when extensive, are too often fatal. In the treatment of these injuries we have had great experience and uniform success, when the patients were brought in soon after the injury. No fatal case of recent burn or scald has occurred in the hospitals with which I have been connected, although several have been extensive and severe. The universal treatment of all such cases is to cover the parts with wheaten flour, thrown over the wounds with a dredging box, which, if thoroughly done so as to exclude the air, and prevent its temperature from reaching the suffering tissues, will afford instant relief from pain, and allay all that nervous irritation which is the chief source of immediate danger in all cases of extensive burns. We have had opportunity to test this practice in terrible burns occasioned by the explosion of gunpowder, in scalds from the bursting of steam boilers, in examples of persons while drunk falling into the fire, and others in which the clothes were burnt off the body by the combustion of spirit gas, &c. In these cases,—in some of them scarcely any portion of the body had escaped ; and, in a few of them, the integuments were literally baked, so that extensive and deep-seated suppuration and sloughing were inevitable, and had afterwards to be endured,—the external application of the flour was in the first instance our only remedy, and this was continued for one or more days, while the acute effects of the remedy demanded it. The superficial portions of the burn or scald would often heal under this application alone ; and the solutions of continuity, more or less deep, which remained open and discharging, were then dressed with lime water and oil, by means of a feather, to which creosota was added if the granulations were slow, or the sloughs tardy in becoming loose. Under this dressing the most formidable burns have been healed ; and, even when the face has been involved, there has been scarcely any considerable deformity. In one of our patients, the face being horribly burned by an accidental explosion

of powder, the grains of powder having been imbedded in the skin, very great apprehensions were indulged that the discoloration thus produced would permanently disfigure and deform the countenance. But, after the persistent application of the flour for three successive days, and until the tumefaction of the face and head had subsided, it was found that, with a few applications of the lime water dressing, the cicatrization was complete, and even the discoloration was removed.

If this simple remedy were resorted to in the severe burns and scalds sometimes occurring from fires, steam boiler explosions, &c., there can be but little doubt that the fatality of such burns would be very rare; while the popular and mischievous methods of applying raw cotton, oil, molasses, salt, alcohol, spirits of turpentine, sugar of lead water, ice, &c., to extensive and deep burns, are all of them injurious, and often destructive to life.

Rev. Henry Ward Beecher on Firemen.

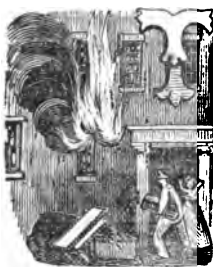
THE Fire Department is composed chiefly of energetic, daring young men, from 20 to 30 years of age. Their service is arduous; their motives manful and benevolent; their exposure to loss of health great; their temptations such as to call for the active solicitude and cordial friendship of society. It is easy for those whose feet rest upon cushioned stools, in warm parlors, enjoying literary and social luxuries, to find fault with the character and actions of the Firemen; but is it just or expedient to do so? Do not Firemen stand ready to save the dwellings of such from destruction by their manful efforts? and have they not a right to expect better things than censure from such?

If Firemen were as bad as represented, the speaker would ask the churches and the men of wealth and affluence, what had they been about to so neglect the men that have so bravely and faithfully served them?

The sacrifice of time and comfort, voluntarily endured by Firemen, engaged the attention of the speaker. They submit to loss of time, and to expense of health, and most of them being working men, they cannot be expected to pump all night and pound all day, without being tempted to stimulus, or injury to health. Many, he said, are buried at Greenwood Cemetery, who have lost their lives by injury to health resulting from exposure on such occasions.

Objections to Firemen are made by refined people because they are rough and strong. But, said the speaker, would you have a company of French dancing masters come with polite airs to extinguish fires?—It is well that on such occasions we have rough, strong men to war against the destroying element. There is nothing, however, in a Fireman's duties that calls for rough language and indecorous conduct. He believed they were unjustly censured to a great extent;—but give a dog a bad name, and he is a gone dog.—In conclusion he said that moral, excellent young men should not be kept out of the Department; but go into it, and use their influence to make it what it should be.

St. Petersburg Fire Brigade.—The Saving Blanket.



THE great interest taken in the improvement of our Fire Department, and in collecting valuable information from the experience of other countries upon the subject, induces me to lay before you what I know of the Fire Police of St. Petersburg. Its marvellous efficiency, which seldom allows an entire edifice to be destroyed, and which limits the ravages of fire to so comparatively a small scale as to pass justly for *preventive* force, is most triumphantly attested by its uniform success in overcoming difficulties equal to the worst in Paris, and more formidable than those in London, where, as in the United States, each house, being walled from its next neighbor, is easily rescued or demolished to arrest the progress of the flames.

I mean, that buildings in St. Petersburg, in the principal streets particularly, are, for the most part, those spacious yard-quadrangles, something like extensive inns, (as the Astor House, New York,) which have numerous suits of rooms or separate apartments, each being equivalent to a dwelling house, connected only by chamber partitions through the vast interior. You will perceive at once that the St. Petersburg Police has something more to do than the "London Fire Brigade"—it has to save, by dislodging the consuming element from the heart of the building; and it does so save it!

St. Petersburg, being intersected with canals, the Fire Police has the advantage over Paris in the element of water, almost equal to that of London; but in the celerity of movement it excels them both. It consists of between two and three thousand men, all uniformed, well disciplined, and admirably organized. The *modus operandi* is as follows: The city being divided into wards, and overlooked by a high tower in each ward, with perpetual sentinels on it, and as many pull-wires as there are wards, descending from it to the bells below, marked with the number of each ward, the signal is awaited in the yard, where men fully equipped, the best of horses ever harnessed, wagons, engines, water casks, hose, ladders, all kinds of appurtenances are ready for the start.

At the first breaking out of the fire, the sentinel rings the bell of the ward where he espies it, and instantly every thing animate and inanimate is rushing to the spot. The quotas of the other towers being sent forth at the same time, a strong impassable cordon of troops is in a moment formed around the fire, the inmates rescued from all peril, and the work of saving property and extinguishing the fire, going on with regularity and order as on a parade. All that is saved is then deposited, with all possible care, in a large edifice, constructed for the purpose, and reclaimed at leisure by the owners. Besides all new improvements and

inventions in the tools, machinery, and whatsoever appertains to the best adaptation of means to the end, known and used in other places, this Fire Police has one of its own, quite *unique*, by its very simplicity and great practicability, worth all the rest, applied to the same use and object.—It is the *Saving Blanket*, of the requisite size, stretched tight and held below by stout and well trained hands, at a sufficient height, to receive free of harm the leaper from above, cut off from the staircase and driven to the window. Policemen often, seemingly for mere amusement, practise these high feats of leaping, and by thus experimenting on themselves, familiarize the people with their ease and perfect safety.

In short, of all the interesting sights in the Imperial Metropolis, none struck me with such wonder, and gave me so much delight, as the turn-out of this whole “Fire Police,” with all their apparatus and *materiel*, going through their various and scientific evolutions, which no unprepared imagination can anticipate.

AN EYE-WITNESS.

SUGGESTION.—We suggest the adoption of this idea among us. Let there be “*Saving Blankets*,” (of India rubber cloth, or other suitable material,) packed in the box in the rear of each engine, or taken to the fire in some compact form, attached to the hose carriages, and men practised in their use, as at St. Petersburg. While waiting for the ladders, many lives have been lost in this country, which by means of the Blanket might have been saved.

Flat Roofs for Houses.

THE following suggestions in regard to the advantages of flat roofs for buildings, we commend to the attention of all real estate owners, for their own benefit, as well as for lessening the risk to firemen in cases of conflagrations.

Most of the new buildings recently erected in Boston, New York, and other American cities, have what are termed flat roofs; that is, the roof is nearly level, and cants but slightly from one side to the other. The old huge peaked roofs are fast disappearing; and the wonder is how they ever came into use. The inventor of them must have been a man full of comical ideas. The flat roof is covered with tin and well painted. If a fire takes place in a building, it is easy to walk and work on a flat roof, so as to command the fire, if it be in the adjacent buildings: this cannot be done on peaked roofs. Flat roofs are cheaper and more convenient in every respect. We advise all those who intend to build new houses to have flat roofs on them. It is better to have a flush story at the top of a building, than a peaked, cramped-up garret, which is only comfortable for travelling on the hands and knees.

Many houses in Europe have been built with their roofs as reservoirs for water. It is a valuable thing in case of a fire or for domestic purposes,—a large quantity of rain water being ready for use.

Fireman's Smoke Proof Dress.



THE origin of a fire is usually found in some hidden point of combustion, capable, were its existence known, of being immediately extinguished; and even the first dawn of a "great fire" is ordinarily confined to circumstances which would admit, in themselves, of a similarly easy conquest. To discover the latent cause of fire, and to carry a hose of water to its heart, has, in consequence, become the first duty of the Fireman; and we are happy in being able to explain to our readers the admirable contrivance of the London Firemen to enter burning houses.

The first object is for the Fireman to secure protection against smoke. This is effected by a tube, connected with an air-pump, attached to the engine, on the outside of the building on fire. Secondly, protection against heat or flames is secured by a stout leather dress and hood. Thirdly, provision for light and sight is made by a powerful reflecting lantern on the breast, and a pair of thickly-glazed sight-holes in the hood. Fourthly, provision is made for communication, by a shrill whistle attached to the hood. Thus equipped, the bold Fireman seeks the sleeping family—the invaluable ledger—the smouldering bale—the hidden spark—and he seldom fails in rescuing the one, or in extinguishing the other.

When we reflect upon the great number of fires yearly occurring in large cities, the importance of an invention like that now described will at once be acknowledged by every reader.

This protection dress is the invention of Mr. Braidwood, the indefatigable Superintendent of the London Fire Establishment, who, for the purpose of testing the practical worth of the contrivance, had a number of experimental fires made in the vaults of the head quarters of the Fire Brigade, in Watling street; and, by such patient industry, he has perfected the invention. The dress has been used with perfect success in rescuing men, women and children from fire in numerous cases. In one instance, at a fire in Fetter lane, three small children were taken from a burning house, who must otherwise have been lost.

It may not be a worthless remark here, that, in an apartment filled with smoke, respiration is less impeded near the ground than near the ceiling, on account of the ascensive tendency of the smoke. Mr. Braidwood, in a small book which he published while Superintendent of the Edinburgh Fire Establishment, says, "A stratum of fresh air is almost always to be depended upon from six to twelve inches from the floor, so that, if the air be not respirable to a person standing upright, he should instantly lie down. I have often observed this fact, which is indeed well known; but I once saw an example of it which appeared to me so

Fireman's Smoke Proof Dress.



striking, that I shall relate it. A fire had broken out in the third floor of a house, and, when I reached the top of the stairs, the smoke was rolling in thick heavy masses over me. I immediately got down on the floor, above which, for the space of about eight inches, the air seemed to be remarkably clear and bright. I could distinctly see the feet of the tables and other furniture in the apartment, the flames in this space burning as vividly and distinct as the flame of a candle, while all above the smoke was so thick that the eye could not penetrate it."

We have seen notices in foreign works of a somewhat similar smoke-proof dress, the invention of Lieut.-Col. Paulin, of Paris. It is a kind of tunic or hood of leather, covering the head or bust, and is fastened round the middle of the body. Into the head of the covering are inserted two glass eye-pieces, and a leathern air-tube is fastened to the back of the dress. A small lamp, somewhat resembling those used by the London Firemen, is fastened in front, and a whistle for giving signals is placed opposite to the mouth of the wearer.

Engine Hose.

THE construction of leathern pipes, or hose, for fire-engines, has received much attention. The hose was occasionally made, in former times, of canvass, covered with cement; another plan was to weave them into perfect tubes; but the use of leather seems to be now fully established in England and the United States. An improvement in the materials of these pipes is said to have been made within a few years in Paris, by the substitution of flax for leather. The pipes are woven in the same manner as the wicks of patent lamps, and may be made of any length, without seam or joining. When wet, they swell and become water-tight. It is said that they are more portable than leather, and not so susceptible of injury. The expense also is not more than half that of leather.

Engine hose was formerly sewed up in the manner of boots; but some years ago Messrs. Hancock and Tellers, of Philadelphia, devised a mode of fastening the seams by means of metallic rivets, which plan has received further improvement, and is now in general use.

A "Boss" or Nose for the End of the Pipe.

THE difficulty of directing the play of the stream of water in an apartment enveloped in flames, without great danger to the Fireman, induced Mr. Bramsh, about forty years since, to devise a boss, or nose, for the end of the pipe. This boss or nose is hemispherical, and perforated with small holes, and when thrown into the middle of the apartment a minute stream rushes from each hole; and as the directions of the holes are arranged at all angles, within 180° of each other, the ceiling, wall, and floor, become saturated equally with water, which could not be the case with one large aperture. This was the intention of the inventor, but we do not know that it has ever been acted upon.



The Female Incendiary of Cairo.

A GREAT fire took place at Cairo, in Egypt, Dec. 2d, 1756, which destroyed an immense number of houses, and caused great loss of human life. The following curious story will explain the cause of its origin :— The Bashaw Achmet-Boulce-Bey, governor of Egypt at that time, was remarkable for great sensibility of heart. The pleasures permitted him by law were far from satisfying him. He wanted to meet with a return of love. He assembled, at a great expense, a numerous and well chosen seraglio, in hopes to meet at length with a beauty capable of inspiring love, and feeling all its force and impulse. Not one of this disposition did he find among twelve hundred Circassian, Georgian and Greek ladies, whom he had purchased at different times.

The moment he despaired of success, a young Circassian was introduced to him. The Bashaw's heart was moved at the sight of Fathme. He flattered himself she would love him, but desired it too much to believe himself assured she would. He purchased her. Fathme perceived the impression she had made on him, and her whole care was to augment it. Admitted into the seraglio, where she saw a great number of rivals, all worthy of the Bashaw's preference, she grew proud on the passion she had inspired him with. Her haughtiness made her wish it to be durable, and she used all endeavors to make it so. Achmet believed himself loved, and this illusion made his happiness.

Some months elapsed, and he was not undeceived. Fathme took care to keep up his error ; she was indebted to it for an absolute authority in the seraglio, and her lover for his happiness. One is always happy by believing himself so. A new slave, of which he had likewise made the purchase, dissipated the fascination that blinded him. Irene, for such was her name, was of a very tender character. She loved Achmet sincerely. Her candor and natural tenderness appeared to him very different from Fathme's manner of loving ; and, having soon given him an insight into her artifices, he quitted her. This vain woman lost

her empire, and found herself confounded in the crowd of other slaves. She could not support her fall. Her humbled pride made her feel torments more afflicting than those created by jealous love. The ardor of revenge fired her heart; and her shame, the triumph of her rival and Achmet's happiness, filled her with the most poignant vexations. Twenty times did she meditate on having recourse to poison or the sword; but these means appeared to her too slow, and not terrible enough. She conceived a horrid project, of which she might be also the victim, but she consoled herself in the notion that her rival and inconstant lover might likewise follow her to the grave. This project was to set fire to the seraglio; and she waited for its execution at a time when the flames were sure to spread every where. A storm that arose on the night of the 2d of December, 1756, appeared favorable to her rage. She caught up a lighted torch, and ran and set fire to the apartment where the Bashaw was with Irene. Little gratified with this beginning, she also fired different parts of the seraglio, in order to make the conflagration more general and more rapid. The fire became dreadful. The Bashaw, having had notice but just time enough, escaped the flames, carrying off Irene in his arms. Fathme, who had watched narrowly the fate of her victims, saw them pass with grief; and, cut to the heart to see them escape, she ran and threw herself headlong where the flames were thickest and hottest; and thus she perished, with most of her companions. About three hundred women were preserved by running nearly naked over the roof of the palace.

Such was the cause of that great fire at Cairo, so much spoken of at the time, and which consumed upwards of ten thousand houses. Had not the bridges been quickly blown up on every side, the whole city had soon been a heap of ashes. The violence of the wind transported the fire of the seraglio to all the neighboring buildings and magazines, and the loss was estimated at thirty-six millions. The Mussulmans regretted principally a tent which had been used by their Prophet, kept in the grand mosque, which, with fifty other mosques, was burnt in this disaster.



Great Conflagration at Hamburgh, May 5th, 1842— Many Lives lost—2000 Buildings destroyed.



ONE of the most destructive fires which has occurred during the present century, broke out in a narrow and obscure street of Hamburgh, Germany, on the 5th of May, 1842, which reduced to ashes a large portion of the business part of that great commercial emporium. The watch were quickly on the spot, but could not succeed in stopping the progress of the flames. In the upper part of the house in which the fire originated, (situated in the Dutch Strasse,) a quantity of rags were stored; and although at the time when it burst forth there was little wind stirring, the combustible nature of these materials, and the large proportion of timber used in the construction of the neighboring houses in that narrow street, rendered them an easy prey to the flames. The fire began about one o'clock in the morning.

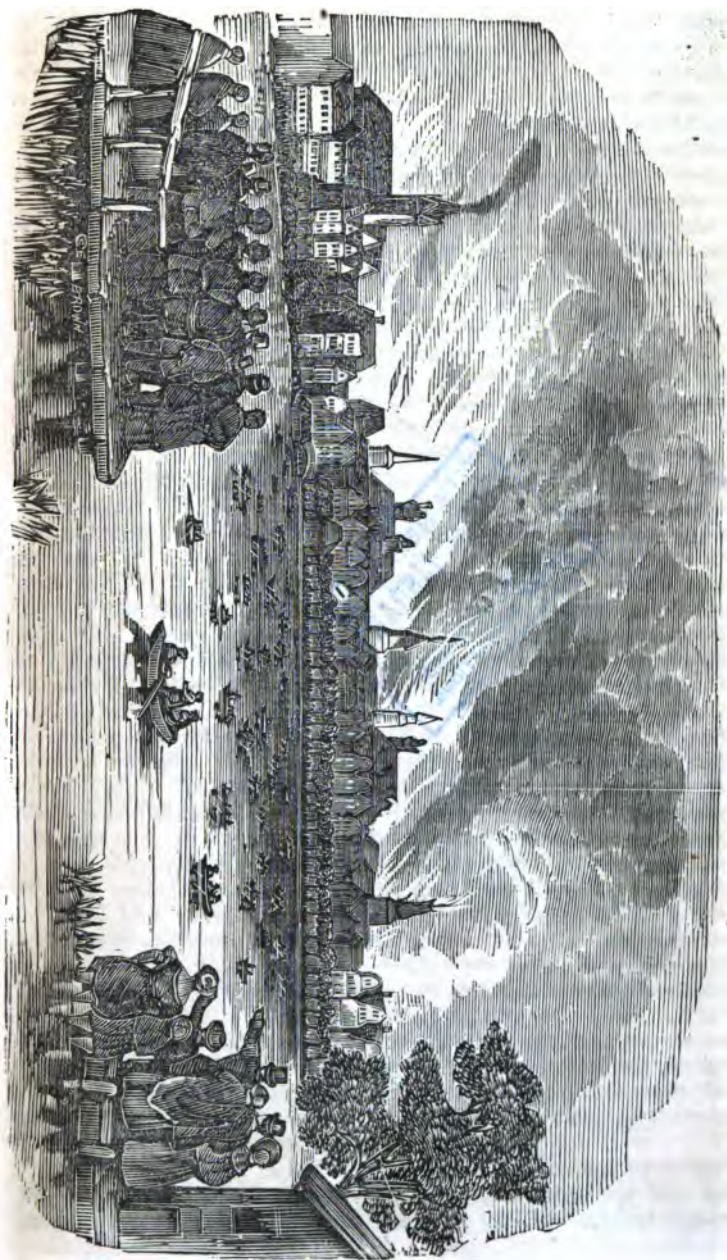
Eight or nine hours after the commencement of the fire, it was mentioned in distant parts of the city, which the conflagration afterwards reached, that a large fire was raging in the neighborhood of the Dutch Strasse; but this news, detailed as a part of the morning's gossip, excited only that general sentiment of regret which persons who are not likely to be themselves sufferers are apt to entertain on such occasions. This indifference was soon changed into consternation, as accounts were successively circulated respecting the extent of the fire; though still many who lived in parts which were yet distant from its ravages felt themselves secure; and sympathy for the loss of property and the distresses of others was the only feeling which these reports called forth. But the fire continued to rage wildly and fiercely, and at length there was not an inhabitant of Hamburgh who did not tremble with apprehension at its awful progress, as it swept from street to street, across the canals and market-places, enveloping churches, the public buildings of the city, warehouses with their stores of coffee, sugar, tobacco, corn, and other merchandise, the lighter in the canal ready to discharge its cargo, shops, dwelling-houses, and all, in one common ruin. The wind had changed into a violent gale, and gave wings to the burning embers which rose from the crackling timbers as the roof-tree and crumbling walls yielded to the fury of the conflagration.

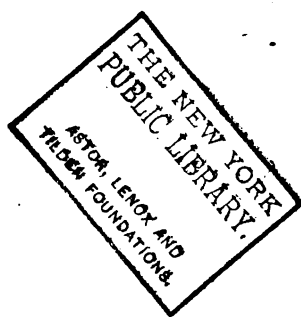
The following letter, written by a young lady on the spot, gives so excellent a general view of the progress of the fire, and the circumstances which marked its successive stages, that we are induced to transcribe it in preference to compiling our account from a variety of sources. The letter is dated on the 9th of May:

"On Thursday morning, (says the writer,) the 5th instant, my sister, her husband, and I, walked to the French church. Frederick, on

taking away the breakfast, told us that since eight or nine o'clock a terrible fire had been raging in the Dutch Strasse. Papa, who knows the distance between the Neuer Jungfernstieg and the Dutch Strasse, will agree that we had no cause for alarm. In coming out of church, the servant said to Madame Parish, that she could not go to her town-house in the carriage; that twenty-two houses had already been totally burnt—that, in fact, hers was in great danger, and that the fire was becoming more and more formidable. A few hours afterward came the news that the house of Mr. Parish was no more, and that the flames were spreading every instant. Toward four o'clock in the afternoon, from our attic windows, we witnessed the destruction of St. Nicholas Church. It was terrible to see this beautiful building become the prey of the element, which was becoming more fearful the more ground it gained. My sister and her husband were to have gone to the opera in the evening, but it was announced that in consequence of the calamity there would be no performance. The spectacle became from hour to hour more shocking. The whole city now began to show the most lively alarm. The bells, the firing of cannon, the cries and confusion in the streets, all presaged a night of anguish and terror. Our apprehensions, alas! were but too faithfully realized. It was not, however, till night had spread her sad wings over the scene, that we could perceive the whole extent of the destruction which menaced the entire city. The heavens became as red as blood—the devouring flames, increased more and more by an impetuous wind, rose to a gigantic height. At seven o'clock Madame ——— came to us in a wretched state. She told us that her sisters at Holzdamm, (who were further from the fire than we were, the flames having taken the direction of Dreck Wall and Bleichen,) had sent all their valuables to her, so great was the fear they were in. We could hardly avoid smiling; for we thought it incredible that the fire could possibly reach Holzdamm. At ten Madame ——— went home, and my sister retired to bed toward eleven, but afterward we received a visit from some gentlemen, who came to say that serious measures were about to be taken, by blowing up some houses which were likely to cause the fire to spread farther. At half past twelve I went to bed myself; but the noise of the explosions, the rumbling of the carriages and carts, the cries, the large flakes of fire which every instant were driven impetuously by the wind across my windows, threatening to set fire to our house; the excessive light of the conflagration, the whistling of the wind, and, as you will easily think, the idea that the lives of persons in whom we were interested were in continual danger, not to mention the conviction of the numberless misfortunes that were happening, prevented all sleep. The windows trembled with the redoubled concussions of the explosions, and the whole house seemed as if it would be annihilated. In such a state I could not close an eye: visions and dreams, but, above all, still sadder realities presented themselves to my imagination continually. Before three o'clock, I found myself again with my sister, who, like me, had been kept awake by the dreadful noise caused by the blowing up of the Rathhaus. At this moment an

SCENE AT THE GREAT CONFLAGRATION OF HAMBURG, 1842.





order of the police was announced to us to wet the roof of our house, and to cause the water to flow in the gutters. Frederick had flown to the assistance of his brothers. We were therefore alone, and mounting on the roof, scarcely dressed, were soon throwing over it pails of water; and our neighbors were doing the same. We prepared ourselves for the worst—threw on our clothes; the confusion increased—we could not remain. We packed up in sheets and in boxes some of our effects.

“With the appearance of day our fears increased. It was a spectacle as sublime as it was fearful, to view the sun, clear and brilliant, rising in all its splendor over the Lombard’s bridge, and on the city side to see nothing but a single mass of flames. It was not, however, a moment for contemplation, but for action; for the worst was to come. We called for the coachman to carry away the things we had packed; but how ridiculous to think we had any longer servants at our disposal! The city, or the passengers, had become masters of the coachmen of my brother-in-law and his mother, and not a man was to be got to carry away our effects for love or money. Our horses were harnessed to the fire engines, and the greatest confusion prevailed. Now succeeded hours which I cannot describe to you. The old Jungfernstieg began to be endangered. The Alster, before our windows, was covered with barges full of burning furniture; the old Jungfernstieg heaped also with goods on fire. On the promenade even of the new Jungfernstieg, I do not speak too largely when I say there were thousands of cars full of furniture, of merchandise, and of people who were saving themselves. Two carts were burning before our house. With our own hands we helped to extinguish the flames. A woman was on fire before our eyes; fortunately I perceived it in time to save her. The horses became unmanageable, and fell down with fright almost into the Alster. A tremendous shower of ashes and of flakes of fire nearly suffocated us, and obstructed our sight. The wind blew with great violence, and the dust was frightful. The fire had now gained St. Peter’s: The people thought the Day of Judgment was come. They wept, they screamed, they knew not what to do at the sight of so much misery. The horses, without drivers, were dragging the carts about in disorder over the Esplanade. Soldiers escorted from the city the dead and the dying, and prisoners who had been plundering. At last, after the greatest efforts, we obtained carts and horses to transport our goods; but the exhausted horses as well as men, refused to work. With bread in our hands we ourselves fed them. Whole families fell down and fainted before our doors. Along all the walls, and out of the Damthor and other gates, nothing was to be seen but one spectacle of misery—a camp of unfortunates in bivouac, groaning, exhausted, famishing. I saw some who had become deranged, mothers with infants at breasts which had no nourishment for them. Fauteuilles of gold and satin adorned the ramparts, and the poor exhausted firemen were reposing on them.”

The burning of the church of St. Nicholas is described by various persons as a magnificent spectacle. It was four hundred feet long, by one hundred and fifty broad, and the spire was four hundred feet in

height. The copper with which the spire was covered became so intensely heated as to ignite the wood-work of the edifice. After burning some time, the steeple fell grandly in. This was on the evening of Thursday. About this time three civil engineers proposed to the senate to blow up some of the houses in the vicinity of the fire, so as to create a barrier to its progress; but while deliberating on this proposal, the conflagration seemed to gather fresh strength. They at length received the sanction of the senate to use their best endeavors to accomplish their purpose. Gunpowder could not be procured for some time, but small quantities were obtained from the stores of private individuals, and some of the houses nearest the fire were blown up; but at first this process was conducted on too small a scale to accomplish the effect intended. The wind occasionally veered and changed the direction of the fire, and burning flakes carried destruction into fresh quarters.

It was natural that the process of wilfully destroying property by blowing up houses not yet in flames, should at first be conducted with too much timidity; but the scale of operations was subsequently enlarged, when it became apparent that this was the chief means by which the safety of the remainder of the city could be effected. Many residents in Hamburg assisted the three before alluded to, in their endeavors to arrest the fire; and it was while thus engaged, that a few cases occurred in which they were ill-treated by the mob, who, in the midst of such scenes of horror, not unnaturally mistook them for a band of incendiaries.

Many persons took advantage of the confusion, and entered houses under the pretence of removing property to a place of security, but in reality to obtain plunder, or for the sake of intoxicating liquors. Twelve of these unfortunate wretches were subsequently found buried by rubbish in a wine cellar. The loss of life otherwise was comparatively small, not amounting to fifty in all; but so many persons being suddenly deprived of the shelter and comforts of home, and driven for safety to the open fields, added to the mental shock occasioned by such disasters, doubtless hurried numbers prematurely to the grave. Some died in the streets and highways while the fire was raging.

About midday on Sunday, May 8th, the fire exhausted itself on the eastern side of the large sheet of water called the Binnen Alster, leaving a space of ground nearly a mile in length, and in one part about half a mile wide, covered with the smouldering ruins of houses, shops, warehouses, churches, and public buildings. The bank was destroyed, but fortunately the treasure in money and bullion was safely secured in fire-proof vaults. The churches of St. Peter's and Gertrude, the Rathhaus, two prisons, the orphan-house, were also destroyed. The new Exchange, although in the midst of the conflagration, was not injured. The number of streets and places totally destroyed was forty-eight, comprising two thousand houses, or one-fifth of the total number of houses in the city. Thirty thousand persons were rendered homeless. The reflection of the fire was seen by the passengers on board a Swedish steamboat in the Baltic, and pieces of burning tapestry, paper, silk, &c., fell at Lubeck, forty miles distant.

The fire raged from Wednesday night until Saturday, on which day, at nine o'clock, the Danish, Hanoverian and Prussian troops entered the town, and being well supplied with gunpowder, commenced blowing up the houses to arrest the progress of the flames. This was completely effected by Sunday morning. Nothing could exceed the heart-rending spectacle of thousands of poor people, frantic with their losses, and without the means of procuring food or shelter.

In the midst of the confusion an incident occurred characteristic of the government and the people. A public notice was every where put up, stating that the vault under the bank, containing the gold and silver bars, was fire-proof, and that the bank books were all removed in perfect safety.

Almost every hotel of any importance was destroyed, and very few of the better description of coffee-houses escaped. Among the private houses burnt were those of Senator Jenisch, which contained a very valuable collection of paintings; the town-house of Mr. Parish, a merchant of European celebrity; that of Mr. Solomon Heine, a Jew who had endeared himself to all classes in Hamburg by his public spirit and comprehensive benevolence.



The above sketch gives a correct view of a portion of the ruins, having been drawn a day or two after the fire. The ruins at the extreme right represent the appearance of the celebrated Nicolai Church, one of the oldest and most splendid in the city, and which is said, in the midst of its conflagration, to have presented one of the most awfully magnificent sights ever witnessed. A few short hours before its final destruction, the Church of St. Nicolai was considered so secure that a great number of citizens, with their moveable property, took refuge within its portals. The next building is St. Petri's Church, with the ruins of the dwellings

of the clergy between it and St. Nicolai. The district was inhabited by a class of the poorest people. The spire of St. Petri's was one of the finest in Europe, being 445 feet high. The other church in the centre is St. Gertruden Kirche, and the view to the extreme left, Lillient strasse (street), with St. Jacob's Church.

The following drawing represents the Old and New Exchange to the right, with the Town-house adjoining. The building indistinctly seen at the extreme left, is the Borsen Halle, or Lloyd's, of Hamburg,



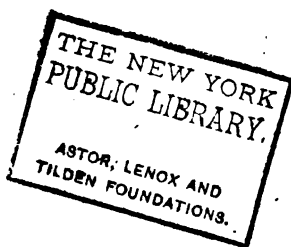
The loss of property was generally estimated at about thirty-five millions of dollars. It was not ascertained how many lives were lost—but many persons must have perished. The canals through the city were dry, so that no water could be found.

The following is given as a more full and authentic account of the extent of the fire:—Number of streets burnt through, 61; courts, 120; houses, 1992; dwelling floors, 1716; cottages, 498; dwelling-cellars, 468; inhabitants rendered houseless, 21,526. Also, three churches, two synagogues, three water-mills, the houses of correction, with their churches, the Detention House, the Senate Houses, all the public offices, the Bank, the principal hotels, and all the libraries. Superficial extent of the burnt district, 3,786,300 feet.

This conflagration proved a serious loss to the flourishing city of Hamburg, which was felt for years. The distresses of the destitute, however, were partially provided for by donations from different parts of the world. Large amounts were collected in the various cities and towns of the United States, which were duly acknowledged by the authorities of Hamburg.



THE FIRE IN HAMBURG, 1842.



Burning of the Bowery Theatre, New York, May 26, 1828.



ON Monday evening, May 26, 1828, about half past 6 o'clock, a fire broke out in the livery stable of Mr. Chambers, in Bayard street, near the corner of the Bowery. The building was of wood, and the wind blowing fresh from the south west; the flames spread with great rapidity. Several of the adjoining houses, which were mostly of wood, were immediately on fire, and when the firemen arrived with their engines, it was already too late to save them. Twelve horses were in the stable, of these only two were saved—the rest shared the fate of the building.

Great difficulty was found in procuring water in the neighborhood of the conflagration, as it was only until a line of engines was formed extending to the East River, at Catharine slip, and another to the corporation supply engine, at the corner of Leonard and Elm streets, that a sufficient quantity could be procured to have any effect upon the flames. In the meantime the flames were driven by the wind full upon the Bowery Theatre, whose side wall was fire proof, with iron shutters to the windows. At length, however, the wooden cornice took fire—the flames seizing the ends of the rafters, were driven with great violence into the interior of the building; and the persons within and on the roof escaped with great difficulty. In fifteen minutes after the eaves caught, the whole roof of this immense edifice was wrapped in flames, and shortly after the lead, with which it was covered, melted and fell in. A pyramid of flame rose from the burning roof to an immense height, with a dazzling intensity of brightness and heat that drove back the bystanders, and shed over the city a light like that of day. The roof, chimneys, and the west wall shortly after fell; and the fire raged inside until every thing was consumed. The fire was got under in about three hours.

The Theatre was insured for \$50,000, and the scenery and wardrobe for \$12,000. The loss on the private wardrobe was from 10 to \$15,000; the greatest sufferer was Mr. Barrett. The whole loss over the insurance was from 30 to \$40,000.

Numerous fires took place about this time in New York, which gave reason to believe that the city was infested with incendiaries; and the different insurance offices united in offering a reward for their apprehension. One of these fires occurred in Charlton street, by which six houses and several shops were entirely destroyed, and a number of other buildings badly damaged. Several stables were consumed, in which seven horses were burnt to death.

A young man was seen attempting to set fire to a pile of shavings against a wooden fence, and was pursued by a watchman for more than a mile, but he escaped.

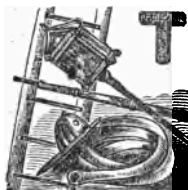
Bowery Theatre burnt a Second Time, Sept. 22, 1836.



THE Bowery Theatre was burnt for the second time, on Thursday, Sept. 22, 1836. The fire was discovered about 5 o'clock in the morning, and was supposed to have caught from the wadding of some guns which had been fired in the performances of the preceding evening. It had gained an uncontrollable headway before it was discovered, so that in five minutes after the alarm was given, the flames burst through the roof, and all hope of saving the building was given up. The work of destruction was soon accomplished. Portions of the wall successively fell, but fortunately without doing material damage, except the portico in front, which fell unexpectedly, and wounded a number of persons, including one or more firemen. The building was among the largest in the city; it was erected, soon after the former fire in 1828, on an enlarged scale, under the direction of Mr. Hamblin, and had stood eight years.

The loss of property was estimated at \$75,000 to \$100,000, a considerable part of which fell on Mr. Hamblin. There *had been* a small insurance on the building, but it expired a short time before the fire, and had not been renewed. All the scenery and wardrobe, valued at \$20,000, were destroyed with the building.

Third Burning of the Bowery Theatre, Feb. 18, 1838.



THIS establishment was destroyed by fire for the third time, on Sunday morning, Feb. 18th, 1838. The fire was discovered about 2 o'clock, and in a short time the building fell a prey to the devouring element. The whole wardrobe, estimated at \$7,000 or \$8,000, with the scenery, machinery and stage property, were soon consumed. The iron safe, containing some money, and all the books and papers of the establishment, was saved; but except this, nothing of any value was rescued.

The wardrobe, scenery and other properties were valued at about \$60,000, upon which there was no insurance. Insurance to the amount of \$35,000 had been effected upon the building, which it was supposed would not cover one half of the whole actual loss. Very few of the actors had any effects in the theatre, and they thus escaped the general ruin. Of the origin of the fire, there is but one opinion, that it was the work of an incendiary.

Burning of the Bowery Theatre, New York, Fourth Time, April 25, 1845.



ON Friday evening, April 25, 1845, at about 6 o'clock, the Bowery Theatre was again destroyed by fire, for the fourth time within seventeen years. The fire broke out in the carpenter's shop attached to the Theatre, and the flames rapidly spread into the interior of the building. The carpenter's shop was built on the south side of the Theatre, with which it communicated with an iron fire-proof door. Before this could be closed, the scenery caught fire, and the whole interior of the large theatre was rapidly involved in the conflagration. From the peculiar nature of the interior of the building, the flames obtained considerable headway before the engines could reach the spot. At the earliest appearance of the flames, some persons rushed into a tavern adjoining and gave the alarm, and an attempt was made to enter the theatre by the front gates. This, however, was impossible from the dense volume of smoke. At the same time the carpenter and some of the performers made an effort to reach the dressing rooms, with a view of securing their wardrobes, which was also unsuccessful.

The engines and all the apparatus of the fire department were promptly on the spot, but it was soon manifest to the head of the department that the building could not by any possibility be saved, and their attention was at once turned to the prevention of the farther progress of the flames. Soon the fire burst through the roof and windows, and the scene became one of mingled grandeur and terror. The roaring of the flames, the breaking of glass, the crackling of the burning rafters, the continuous thumping of the well-manned engines, and the hoarse voice of the foremen as they gave the necessary directions, all combined to increase the excitement with which the burning mass was regarded.

In about half an hour the fire was at its height, the roof fell in, and the glowing furnace within sent forth a cloud of ignited particles, which spread to a great distance, and greatly endangered the surrounding property. About quarter before seven the peak of the rear wall on Elizabeth street fell outward with a fearful crash, and several persons narrowly escaped the falling ruins. About ten minutes later the north half of the end wall also fell, and five minutes later the remaining half. Both these portions, however, gave ample notice of their fall by their gradual inclination toward the street for some time before they fell.

During the short time between the falling of the two portions of the rear wall, the fire glowed with fearful heat, and it was only by the unceasing and most praiseworthy exertions of the firemen, that the block

of three story houses opposite was saved from destruction. Constant streams of water from three engines were kept playing on them; and so intense was the heat, that the buildings were often concealed under a dense cloud of steam.

After the rear and roof of the theatre had fallen in, it first became apparent that the fire might be kept mainly within the limits of the building; but until then, there was every indication of a wide-spreading conflagration. Considerable alarm was entertained lest the gas house, next to the theatre, should take fire and explode. Fortunately, however, this catastrophe was prevented.

In the front of the theatre the fire raged with almost equal force, though the wind being from the northeast, the heat and main body of the flame were felt most on Elizabeth street. As the flames burst forth from the front windows, and caught the heavy cornice, the whole interior was at this time revealed to those on the roofs of the opposite houses, and the furniture of the saloon, the pictures, glasses, sofas, &c., could be distinctly seen as each became a prey to the spreading flames.

The houses on each side several times caught fire, and the roofs of some of them were destroyed. The inmates threw their furniture out of the windows, and the scene became one of disaster and confusion. When the heavy cornice in front fell, many persons were standing on the steps and narrowly escaped. Some were slightly bruised.

The house of Mr. Cox, on the south side of the theatre in Elizabeth street, was much injured in the roof. Some small tenements on Elizabeth street were nearly if not totally destroyed, and some of the inmates escaped with difficulty. One poor woman had barely time to snatch up her two children, one an infant, and then only succeeded in escaping with them by forcing her way through the smoke and flames.

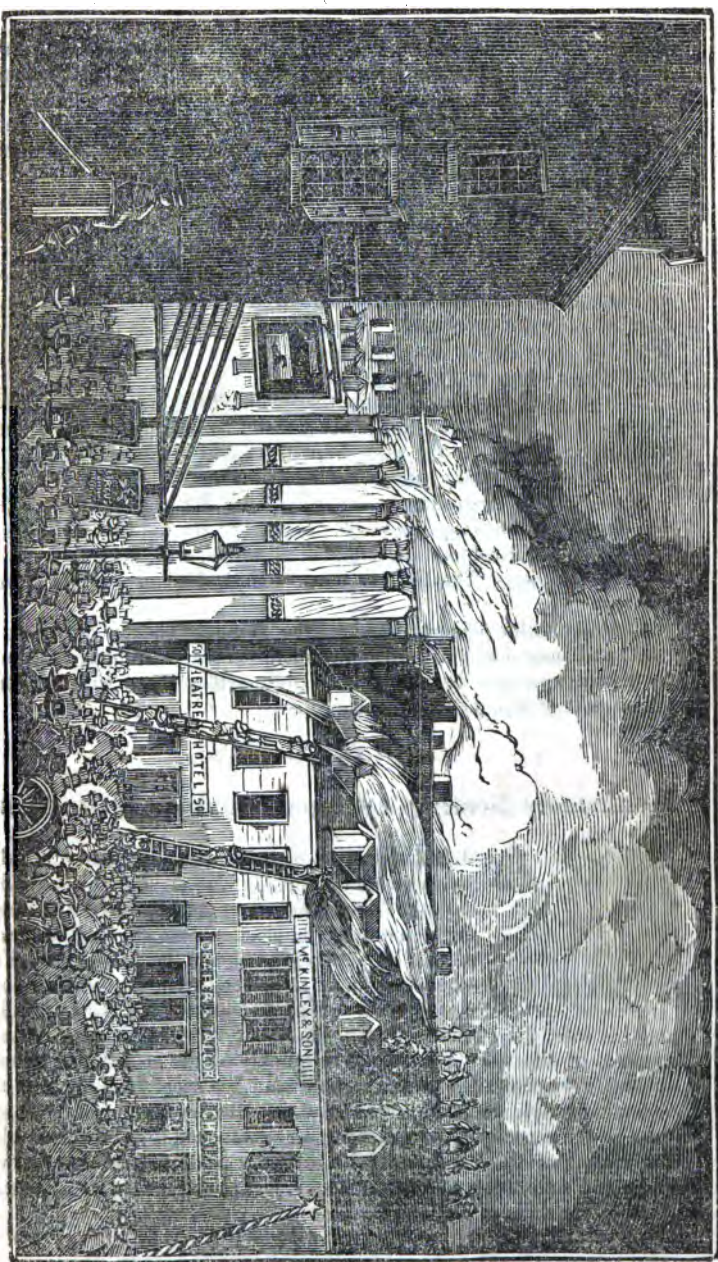
Buildings Nos. 50 and 52, being the Bowery Hotel and the shop of Mr. Cort, plumber, were much damaged, and the roofs destroyed. Shaw's Hotel, south of the theatre, in the Bowery, was considerably damaged, and a house on Bayard street, between Mott and Mulberry streets, several times caught fire from sparks that fell on the roof.

Some accidents occurred with the engines, and we do not wonder at it, considering the immense crowds which thronged all the avenues to the place.

The houses on each side of the theatre were owned by John Jacob Astor, and were insured. The tenants' stock not insured.

The loss fell principally on T. S. Hamblin and James R. Whiting. The former had invested in stock and properties scarcely less than \$60,000; the latter had about \$10,000 worth of stock. Besides these, a number of stockholders, representing about \$15,000, have suffered. Thus we may set down the total loss at \$85,000. The properties, wardrobe, banners, scenes, &c., all belonging to Mr. Hamblin, fell a prey to the flames, as also the extensive wardrobe of Mr. Scott, valued at \$2000.

It was generally supposed by those concerned in the theatre that the conflagration was the act of an incendiary, as the flames first proceeded



Burning of the Bowery Theatre, New York.

from a vault, filled with shavings, under and communicating with the carpenter's shop by a trap door, where no fire could have been communicated except by design.

Mr. Hamblin's loss in stocks, stage appointments and wardrobe was about \$100,000, without a dollar's insurance. Upon being informed by his acting manager and Davenport of the conflagration, while at his own residence in Franklin street, he exclaimed, "There go the labors of seven years"—and after a short pause—"but we are not dead yet, boys."

The ruins presented a gloomy appearance—nothing to be seen save a hollow square, enclosed by three bare walls, nearly fifty feet in height, from which *not a brick fell!* Four times has the theatre been burned from the same walls, leaving them a mass of flint—no walls in the country can compare with them.

A rumor prevailed at the time, that two or three persons were seen in the dressing room after the house was in flames, but it was probably without foundation, as the ruins were thoroughly searched, and no evidence discovered of any person having been lost.

A remarkable circumstance connected with this disaster was the sudden death, *without any apparent illness*, on the night of this fire, of the son of Mr. Rushton, a celebrated druggist, who was *born* on the night the Bowery Theatre was burnt the first time, seventeen years previous!

Contrary to the general opinion, the Bowery Theatre was soon rebuilt, and once more in successful operation; and we hope the time is far distant when can be recorded its fifth conflagration, with the consequent risks of danger to life and property.

Melancholy Death of an Aged Couple in Scituate, Ms.



MELANCHOLY event, which is often alluded to by residents of Scituate, Mass., took place on Sunday, the 17th of February, 1822. About 3 o'clock in the morning, the good people of the town were aroused from their slumbers by the cry of Fire, which was found to proceed from the dwelling house occupied by an aged couple, Mr. Job Litchfield and his wife, the former 70 and the latter 88 years of age. Large numbers of the town's people were quickly on the spot, but all human aid was without avail—the flames had made too great headway, and this venerable couple perished in the flames! Mrs. Powers, who lived with them in the capacity of housekeeper, was awakened by the dismal glare and roaring of the flame, and with difficulty made her escape through dense and suffocating columns of smoke, just as the flames were bursting through the walls of her apartment.

Burning of the Philadelphia Orphan Asylum, Jan. 24, 1822—Twenty-three Lives lost.



TRULY heart-rending as are many of the events recorded in this Book, none can be more so than the burning of the Orphan Asylum, in Philadelphia, on the 24th of January, 1822. The Asylum was a spacious building erected by the munificence of citizens of Philadelphia, to afford a home and protection for young orphan children. About 3 o'clock in the morning, the Matron was aroused from her sleep by some of the children in the adjoining room. She and her daughter immediately got up, and on reaching the door leading to the cellar, discovered it to be in a blaze. She immediately hastened to the children's apartments, to assist them in their escape. By the time this was effected, the interior of the building was enwrapt in flames. All that was under the roof of a combustible nature was soon destroyed, and nearly one hundred orphans suddenly driven from their benevolent asylum, entirely destitute. Since the destruction of the Richmond Theatre there had not occurred in the United States a conflagration so calamitous. It appears that a servant, wishing to dry some articles of clothing in the kitchen, made up a fire in the stove around which they were placed, and retired to bed, and it is supposed that the fire was originated in this manner. This calamity taking place in the coldest night of the season, prevented the exertions of the Firemen being of much avail. So intense was the cold, that the water froze almost immediately on being projected from the engines.

The Widows' Asylum, on the adjoining lot, fortunately escaped, although several times in danger.

The following particulars are given by a gentleman who was an eyewitness of the calamitous event:—"The Asylum was an edifice of which the foundation of the basement story was sunk a few feet below the surface of the ground; the second floor was occupied principally by the chapel, above which were the dormitories. Here were sleeping two or three women, and nearly a hundred children, when in the dead hour of the night the Matron, who was herself indisposed, was aroused by the cries of a child for a drink of water. She immediately arose, and on opening a door, discovered that the lower part of the house was in flames. The watchmen, and such citizens as arrived in time, assisted in removing

the children. Some were carried down the stairs, others by the assistance of ladders were taken out of the windows. Nearly all of those saved were taken in the arms of their deliverers as they were found in their beds.

"So intent were those present on getting the children out of the house, that no further attention could be immediately paid to them,—in consequence of which many of them wandered away, and were afterwards found scattered about in various directions, in exposed situations, and entirely destitute of clothing. Such was the severity of the weather, that those who escaped must have suffered almost as much as those who perished. Several of the poor little ones had taken shelter in the neighboring privies, and were found almost perished by fear and cold. Some of them found their way to the Widows' Asylum, but that was so near the fire that fears were entertained of the flames spreading to it from the Orphans' House, and it was at one time thought necessary to remove the children who had taken refuge there, and the aged females of the establishment, (one of them above a hundred years old) made preparations to quit the abode which had been prepared for them by the munificence of the charitable.

"Would to God, that the destruction of this noble edifice was the greatest calamity to be announced. Ah, no! there were many, very many little children not to be found! May the blessing of God and eternal happiness be the portion of those brave-hearted Firemen and citizens who risked their own lives to snatch the fatherless from an untimely death. The little creatures who perished we humbly trust are taken to the bosom of their Father and their God."

Of nearly one hundred children in the house, *twenty-three* fell victims to the fury of the flames. Great praise was bestowed on the Firemen and watchmen for the intrepidity and noble daring displayed by them on the occasion. Honorable mention is made of Robert Nutter, John Butcher, and Stephen Barcus, for their humane exertions on the occasion. The last child saved was brought out by Mr. Nutter, who, in bringing her off, was obliged to clamber over the bannister, the stairs being on fire. The little innocent, when he accosted her, begged him in her artlessness, "*not to throw her into the fire.*"

The excitement caused by this calamity was very great. The loss was estimated at \$25,000, only \$6000 of which was insured. A public meeting of the citizens was immediately held, and every measure adopted to alleviate the misery of the objects which escaped naked from the flames. The amount of \$20,000 was subscribed, and offerings of clothes, food, &c., were promptly made. The State Legislature voted a donation of \$5000; and \$1400 was received from a benefit given at the Walnut Street Theatre, which, with the insurance, amounted to \$32,400, besides various private donations.



Singular Narrative of a Supposed Attempt to Burn the City of New York in 1741.



HISTORY gives numerous instances of wrongs inflicted in consequence of erroneous suspicions. We shall narrate the facts of a most singular delusion which prevailed in New York, in the year 1741, which caused a large number of persons to be burnt alive or hanged, under suspicion of being incendiaries. The inhabitants were thrown into a state of great excitement and alarm, the rumor being that the negro population designed to burn the town, and massacre every white inhabitant. This insane idea originated in the following circumstances :

A Spanish vessel had been brought into port as a prize, and a number of its sailors being men of color, they were not treated as prisoners of war, but condemned as slaves in the court of admiralty, and accordingly sold to the highest bidder. These men grumbled at this treatment. They declared they were freemen, who had hired themselves as mariners, and that it was grossly unjust to make them slaves. One of these men was bought by a person whose house shortly after was burnt. Immediately two or three other fires occurred in the city, including one in the government house, which was burnt, with some adjoining buildings. Whether these fires were accidental, or the work of incendiaries, could not be discovered ; but the cry was raised among the people, "It is the Spanish negroes! Take up the Spanish negroes!" They were immediately incarcerated, and a fire occurring in the afternoon of the same day, the rumor became general that the slaves in a body were concerned

in these wicked attempts to burn the city. The military was turned out, and the sentries were posted in every part of the town, while there was a general search of the houses, and an examination of suspicious persons. The lieutenant-governor, at the request of the city authorities, offered a reward of £100, and a full pardon to any free white person who should discover the persons concerned in incendiary acts, and freedom, with a reward of £20, to any slave who should make the same discovery.

The offer of so tempting a reward induced a woman named Mary Burton, to assume the office of informer. Some time before the outbreak of the fires, Mary had been a servant with a person named John Hughson, who kept a low tavern where negroes were in the habit of resorting. This man had been concerned in receiving some articles of which a house had been robbed, and in consequence of information given by his servant, he was seized and put in prison for this delinquency. Peggy Carey, a woman of infamous character, was also implicated in the robbery, and likewise committed to prison. It now seems to have occurred to Mary Burton that nothing would be more feasible than to attach the crime of incendiarism and insurrection to her late master, Hughson, and the woman Carey, along with three negroes, Cæsar, Prince and Cuffee; and she emitted a declaration to that effect. She said that she had heard these two white and three black persons conspiring to burn the town and massacre the inhabitants. The governor, the lawyers, and all the people were aghast with horror. The plot was atrocious, and demanded the most careful inquiry, the most signal punishment.

Many examinations ensued, and among others that of the wretched woman Peggy Carey. Peggy was bad enough, but she had never entertained half so magnificent a project as that of burning New York, and denied all knowledge of the plot and its abettors. On second thought, however, as she saw she was in a scrape for having received stolen goods, it appeared to her that she might escape punishment by trumping up what was so much in demand—a little knowledge of the plot. She now made a voluntary confession, in which she laid the scene of the plot in the house of John Romme, a shoemaker, and keeper of a tavern frequented by several negroes, to whom Romme administered an oath. She said they were to attempt to burn the city, but if they did not succeed, they were to steal all they could, and he was to carry them to a strange country, and give them their liberty. All the slaves mentioned by her were immediately arrested. Romme absconded, but was afterwards taken.

On the 29th of May, 1741, the negro slaves, Quack and Cuffee, were brought to trial before the Supreme Court, on a charge of conspiracy to murder the inhabitants of New York. The principal evidence against them came from Mary Burton. There was also some evidence against them from negroes. The prisoners had no counsel, while the attorney-general, assisted by two members of the bar, appeared against them. The evidence had little consistency, and was extremely loose and

general. The arguments of the lawyers were chiefly declamatory respecting the horrible plot, for the existence of which, however, no sufficient evidence was introduced. "The monstrous ingratitude of this black tribe," was the language of one of them in addressing the jury, "is what exceedingly aggravated their guilt. Their slavery among us is generally softened by great indulgence. They live without care, and are commonly better clothed and fed, and put to less labor, than the poor of most Christian countries. But notwithstanding all the kindness and tenderness with which they have been treated amongst us, yet this is the second attempt of the same kind that this brutish and bloody species of mankind have made within one age." The prisoners were immediately convicted, and were sentenced by one of the court, and in an address singularly indicative of the general excitement on the subject, *to be burnt to death*. "You that were for destroying us without mercy," he said, "you abject wretches, the outcasts of the nations of the earth, are treated here with tenderness and humanity; and I wish I could not say with too great indulgence, for you have grown wanton with excess of liberty, and your idleness has proved your ruin, having given you the opportunity of forming this villanous and detestable conspiracy. What hopes can you have of mercy in the other world, for shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?" and he urged them to confess, as affording the only hope of mercy.

The prisoners protested their innocence, and utterly denied any knowledge of the plot whatever, but when they were taken out to execution, the poor creatures were much terrified; the officers again endeavored to persuade them to confess; and after they were chained to the stake, and the executioner was ready to apply the torch, they admitted all that was required of them. An attempt was then made to procure a reprieve, but a great multitude had assembled to witness the executions, and the excitement was so great that it was considered impossible to return the prisoners to jail. They were accordingly *burnt at the stake*. Although Hughson and his wife had already been tried, and were under sentence of death for receiving stolen goods, it was determined to bring them to another trial for being concerned in the conspiracy!

Accordingly on the 4th of June, 1741, Hughson, his wife, his daughter, and Peggy Carey, were placed at the bar for trial. Mary Burton was at hand with her tales, and Arthur Prince, a thief and infamous character, who had been employed by the magistrates to go to Sarah Hughson and endeavor to make her accuse her father and mother, related a conversation that he pretended to have had with her. The prisoners had no counsel, and almost every member of the bar appeared against them. The attorney-general made an address to the jury, which was full of invective against Hughson. "Such a monster," he said, "will this Hughson appear before you, that, for the sake of the plunder he expected by setting in flames the king's house, and this whole city, he—remorseless he! counselled and encouraged the committing of all these most astonishing deeds of darkness, cruelty and in-

humanity—infamous Hughson ; gentlemen, this is that Hughson, whose name and most detestable conspiracies will no doubt be had in everlasting remembrance, to his eternal reproach, and stand recorded to the latest posterity. This is the man !—this, that grand incendiary !—that arch rebel against God, his king and his country !—that devil incarnate, and chief agent of the Abaddon of the infernal pit and regions of darkness ! ”

The prisoners severally and solemnly protested their innocence, declared that what the witnesses had said against them was false, and called upon God to witness their asseverations. They were all found guilty, and were sentenced to be hung. “ Good God ! ” exclaimed the judge, in pronouncing sentence, “ when I reflect on the disorders, confusion, and desolation and havoc, which the effect of your most wicked, most detestable, and diabolical counsels might have produced, had not the hand of our great and good God interposed, it shocks me ; and you, who would have burnt and destroyed without mercy, ought to be served in like manner.”

The daughter of Hughson confessed and was saved. Peggy Carey had confessed, but afterward retracted and said that what she had confessed was a gross prevarication, and that she had sworn falsely against those she accused. She was accordingly executed. On the evening before her death, she sent for one of the judges, and reiterated to him her statement that she had forsworn herself in regard to the plot. Hughson and his wife asserted their innocence to the last, but were executed. When the three came to die, Hughson seemed to expect a rescue ; his wife was senseless ; and Peggy Carey met her fate with less composure than either of the others.

Meanwhile, the trials were prosecuted with all possible vigor. On the 18th of June, four more negroes were tried, convicted, and subsequently received the same sentence ; one of them immediately made a confession in court implicating a large number of negroes. On the 13th of June, five more were convicted, and on the 15th of the same month were sentenced to death. On the 17th of June, five of the Spanish negroes were brought to trial. By a law of the province, the testimony of slaves could only be used against each other, and it was used in the present instance ; but the prisoners complained bitterly of the injustice done them, insisting that they were freemen in their own country. The court decided, however, that they were slaves, and the evidence of slaves was properly used against them ; they were all condemned. On the 19th of June the lieutenant-governor offered a full pardon to all who would make confession before the 1st of July. The poor negroes, being extremely terrified, were anxious to take the only avenue of safety that was offered, and each strove to tell a story as ingenious and horrible as he could manufacture. “ Now,” says the historian of the plot, “ many negroes began to speak, in order to lay hold of the benefit of the proclamation. Some who had been apprehended, but not indicted, and many who had been indicted and arraigned, who had pleaded not guilty, were disposed to retract their pleas and plead guilty, and throw them-

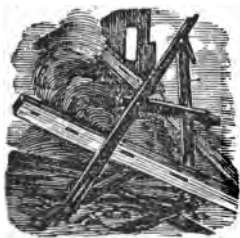
selves on the mercy of the court." In one week after the proclamation, there were thirty additional slaves accused, and before the 15th of July, forty-six negroes, on their arraignment at different times, pleaded guilty. Suspected slaves were daily arrested, until at length the prison became so full that there was danger of disease, and the court again called in the assistance of the members of the bar, who agreed to bear their respective shares in the fatigue of the several prosecutions.

While things were at this crisis, the cry of the negro plot became strangely mingled with a notion that the conspiracy was somehow fomented by the Roman Catholics—a Negro and Popish plot rolled into one—and this greatly aggravated the panic. Mary Burton and William Kane, a soldier, who had himself been suspected, and escaped by confession, accused a nonjuring clergyman, named John Ury, who was living obscurely in New York, of meeting and conspiring with negroes. Nothing was too wild for belief. This poor gentleman, whose life appears to have been irreproachable, was brought to trial for the double offence of being a conspirator and a Roman Catholic priest. He pointedly denied both charges. He declared that he was not a Roman Catholic, and we are led to infer from his defence, that he was a Scottish Episcopal clergyman. The court, however, would give no credence to this acknowledgment; it held, contrary to all evidence, that he was a Roman Catholic priest, and, according to the logic of the day, that was enough in itself to condemn him. When brought to the scaffold, he delivered a most affecting and pious address, solemnly denying all knowledge of the plot, and that he was even acquainted with Hughson, his wife, or the creature that was hanged with them.

After the execution of this unfortunate man, a day of thanksgiving to Almighty God was observed by public command, "for the deliverance of his majesty's subjects here from the destruction wherewith they were so generally threatened by the late execrable conspiracy." The delusion continued a short time longer, and there was one more execution; but the public vengeance had been pretty well satisfied, and prosecutions became unpopular, more especially as Mary Burton, the common informer, began to give out intimations against people of consequence in the city. The last act of this tragedy was the payment of this perjured creature by the city authorities, of the reward of £100, originally offered to any one who would disclose the plot.

To sum up the cruelties perpetrated during the excitement:—the number of persons taken into custody on suspicion was upwards of one hundred and fifty. Of these, four white persons were hung; eleven negroes were burnt; eighteen were hung; and fifty were transported and sold, principally in the West Indies. Several persons who were suspected made their escape out of the colony. And all this, to the disgrace of the age, on no other ground than an idle suspicion. The whole, from first to last, had been an imposture and delusion.

Destruction of a Roman Theatre.



“ROME was an ocean of flame. Height and depth were covered with red surges, that rolled before the blast like an endless tide. The billows burst up the sides of the hills, which then turned into instant volcanoes, exploding volumes of smoke and fire; then plunged into the depths in a hundred glowing cataracts, then climbed and consumed again. The distant sound of the city in her convulsions went to the soul. The air was filled with the steady roar of the advancing flame, the crash of falling houses, and the hideous outcry of the myriads flying through the streets, or surrounded and perishing in the conflagration. All was clamor, violent struggle, and helpless death. Men and women of the highest rank were on foot, trampled by the rabble that had lost all respect to conditions. One dense mass of miserable life, irresistible from its weight, crushed by the narrow streets, and scorched by the flames over their heads, rolled through the gates like an endless stream of black lava. * * * * *

“The fire had originally broken out upon the Palatine, and hot smoke that wrapped and half blinded us, hung thick as night upon the wrecks of pavilions and palaces; but the dexterity and knowledge of my inexplicable guide carried us on. It was in vain that I insisted upon knowing the purpose of this terrible traverse. He pressed his hand on his heart in re-assurance of his fidelity, and still spurred on. We now passed under the shade of an immense range of lofty buildings, whose gloomy and solid strength seemed to bid defiance to chance and time. A sudden yell appalled me. A ring of fire swept round its summit; burning cordage, sheets of canvass, and a shower of all things combustible, flew into the air above our heads. An uproar followed, unlike all that I had ever heard; a hideous mixture of howls, shrieks and groans. The flames rolled down the narrow street before us, and made the passage next to impossible. While we hesitated, a huge fragment of the building heaved, as if an earthquake, and, fortunately for us, fell inwards. The whole scene of terror was then open. The great amphitheatre of Statilius Taurus had caught fire; the stage, with its inflammable furniture, was intensely blazing below. The flames were wheeling up, circle above circle, through the seventy thousand seats that rose from the ground to the roof. I stood in unspeakable awe and wonder on the side of the colossal cavern—this mighty temple of the City of Fire! At length a descending blast cleared away the smoke that covered the arena. The cause of those horrid cries was now visible. The wild beasts kept for the games had broke from their dens.

Fire at the County House, Worcester, Mass., and Loss of Life, Nov. 22, 1852.



THE Firemen of Worcester, Mass., were called from their beds shortly before one o'clock, on the morning of November 22, 1852, by an alarm of fire which proceeded from the Worcester County House. The fire occurred in the new north wing of the prison, and resulted in the death of four persons,—James Fitzpatrick, Irish, 50 to 60 years of age, who had been an inmate of the Insane Hospital since 1846; Wm. O. Keith, Irish, aged 17, an inmate of the Insane Hospital since 1849; Thomas Downs, of Worcester, aged about 40; and Bucklin J. Duchee, of Rhode Island, a carpenter by trade, an inmate of the same Hospital since 1845;—who were smothered in the cells in which they were confined, before assistance could be furnished them. All of these persons had been inmates of the Insane Asylum, and in consequence of the crowded state of that Institution, had, with other incurables, been transferred, within a short time, to the Jail, for safe keeping.

The fire is supposed to have been communicated to the cold air flue, which was made of wood, from the furnace, which was situated directly under the tier of cells, and so constructed as to warm the whole of that wing of the building. Passing along the whole of that flue, the fire communicated with the pitch pine floor of the corridor around the cells, producing a heat in front of them so intense, as to cause the expansion of the iron bolts by which the cell doors were secured, and to defy all ordinary means of shoving the bolts.

The unfortunate occupants of the Jail were probably alarmed by the smoke and flames, sometime before their perilous situation was known to the keepers; but their outcries attracted no attention at first, from the fact that this class of persons are in the habit of making disturbances in the night, without any apparent cause; and it was not until the smoke penetrated into the other parts of the building, that the jailor and his family were aware of what had occurred. Their efforts were immediately directed to the extinguishing of the flames in the basement; but not succeeding in this, they repaired to the story above, to release the prisoners.

Meantime the alarm was given outside, and the fire department were soon upon the ground. Capt. Lamb, the architect of the prison, was sent for, and succeeded in removing some of the fastenings, so that the doors were open as speedily as possible; but in consequence of the density of the smoke, the great heat, the narrowness of the passage-way,

and the want of proper tools with which to pry open the doors, about half an hour elapsed before an entrance was effected into the cells.

A fifth insane person was taken out alive, although equally exposed as the others.—In the several tiers of cells in this wing, there were in confinement 5 men, 24 women, one of whom had an infant child. Fourteen of the women were in confinement for various offences, and the other ten women and five men were insane persons.

All the deceased were lying upon the floor, when found, with their faces downwards. Their countenances did not indicate that they had experienced intense suffering, and their bodies were but slightly marked by the fire.

Coroner Day held an inquest over the bodies of the four men. The testimony showed that the fire commenced in the air box of the furnace, but how it originated seemed to be a mystery, as no defect was known to exist in the construction of the air box.

EFFECTS OF FIRE UPON AN INSANE MAN.—The insane man who escaped suffocation, was called upon to testify before the coroner's jury, and gave in his evidence as intelligibly and correctly as any witness. He said he wrapped himself in a blanket and laid down on the floor, with his face to the ventilator, and thus saved himself. At the inquest he was not considered insane, though he was before thought to be one of the "incurables."

Ladders and Lightning.

EVERY house wants a ladder, somewhere attached to it, or easy to get at in case of fire. Many a life has been lost, and many a dwelling burned, for the want of such a provision. Every house, too, wants a lightning rod; and many a house has been burned for the want of that. A genius in Massachusetts has made real the idea of joining these two things together.

It is an iron ladder which serves as a permanent ladder for the building, and, properly attached to continuations and points, as a lightning conductor. These lightning rod ladders, will, we believe, come largely into use. They meet everywhere with favor from the insurance companies, some of which have already taken a practical stand in favor of their universal adoption.

1st. They are permanent, and a fixture neither to be borrowed or lent.

2d. They are indestructible, being preserved from rust by painting.

3d. They can be made of any length, and are always ready for use.

4th. They form a capacious conductor of electricity, more so than any conductor now in use.

The utility of a house ladder, as an instrument of safety, in escaping from fire, as well as in putting out fire, needs no discussion, and the contrivance is certainly the best we have ever seen, nor can we imagine anything more simple.

**Great New York Conflagration of July 19th, 1845,
attended with Loss of Life.**



NEW YORK, JULY 19, 1845.

At a quarter to four this morning, we were startled by the successive reports of a tremendous explosion, alarming the whole city, and arousing its slumbering inhabitants to a consciousness of the awful calamity which has visited us in the shape of one of the most destructive conflagrations that, with the exception of the great fire of 1835, we ever witnessed. On repairing to the scene of the disaster, we found the flames ascending from apparently a hundred buildings at once, extending from Broadway down Exchange Place to within a few doors of William street in one direction, and in another from the public stores in Broad street, near Wall, to Beaver.

The fire broke out in Van Doren's oil factory, No. 31 New street, as early as a quarter before three. At a quarter to four occurred the explosions above alluded to, which in an instant scattered in fragments three of the largest stores in New street. Fortunately these were in or

near the centre of the conflagration, and the loss of life is therefore not so great, the firemen and spectators having been kept at a distance by the heat.

The progress of the flames was so rapid, that it was with the utmost difficulty the inmates of many of the buildings were saved. Women and children in some instances were compelled to pass from roof to roof in order to escape the destructive element.

On the East side of Broadway, every building from Exchange Place, commencing with the Waverley House, to Marketfield street, is utterly consumed, also three or four dwellings below Marketfield. The house on the corner of Stone and Whitehall streets, and two or three dwellings north of Stone street, remain comparatively uninjured. Thence to Broad street, Stone street is the boundary. Through Broad street, from Stone to the public stores, within two or three doors of Wall street, the buildings on both sides are all destroyed. A line drawn from the public stores to the Waverley House, is the limit on the northwest. In Beaver street, all the buildings on both sides are consumed, from the Bowling Green to within five or six doors of William street. On the West side of Broadway, the buildings are all destroyed from Morris street to No 13, occupied by Mrs. Barker as a boarding house—this last included.

The buildings on Broadway, north of Morris street, were saved by incredible exertions, in which the inmates rendered themselves especially conspicuous. They were covered with carpets and blankets, constantly wet with water carried up by hand to the roofs.

The explosion which set this most disastrous conflagration in motion, was thought to be from the reservoir gasometer of the Manhattan Company, situated in New street, caused by the heat of the neighboring fire. There was nothing else which could have made it, and that could. In corroboration of this, the gas lights in many places went out instantly upon the explosion.

There was a quantity of saltpetre in the store of Crocker & Warren, but a store full of it was burnt ten years ago, and there was no explosion. Gunpowder was spoken of, but without evidence that any was present.

The explosion was tremendous, and produced the utmost consternation throughout the lower part of the city. The office of this paper, says the Journal of Commerce, seemed as if toppling to its base. The printers' sticks were thrown from their hands; and the gas lights suddenly extinguished in a part of the building, added to the terror and confusion of the scene. No damage was experienced, however, except in the breaking of window glass. Nearly every building in Wall street, and in fact in all the streets contiguous to the burnt district, had its windows more or less injured, and in some instances whole sashes were dashed in, and the large massive doors of the stores either swung open, or were detached wholly from hinge and bolt, and thrown into the centre of the buildings. Such was the effect of the explosion on the Merchants' Exchange, as to burst in the windows, breaking large quantities of the thickest plate glass. Even the interior doors were burst open. The

explosion occurred in successive shocks, previous to which the atmosphere was irradiated with brilliant flashes of light, tinged with every variety of color. The air was immediately filled with balls of fire and burning beams, some of which of huge size were thrown to an incredible height and distance. A heavy burning rafter struck on the roof of Bunker's Mansion House.

The explosion was heard on board the steamboat *Champion*, while seven miles from the city, and startled the passengers from their births. It was also heard at Hempstead and at Newark. Capt. York, of the brig *Milton*, as well as the captain and passengers of the brig *Savannah*, off the Highland, heard the report and felt the concussion.

In a couple of hours from the outbreak, the fire had extended across Nassau street, nearly up to Wall street, and one hundred and fifty buildings were supposed to be on fire at the same time! The Exchange was at one time thought to be in danger, but it remained unscathed. Rapidly, and almost unresisted, the flames made their way to the rear of Broadway. Soon after the fire was seen breaking out in a building near the Waverly Hotel. Nothing could stay the current, and soon all that remained of the Waverly was its bare walls.

From the Waverly the fire took a clear sweep down Broadway to the foot of the Bowling Green, and the beautiful mansions opposite the Green were soon in flames. The Green and the Battery were covered with furniture and goods of every description, but without affording much safety, as the falling sparks and cinders were so numerous as to darken the sun. People sat guarding their property, with scarcely rags enough on to protect their skin from the hot falling cinders.

9 o'clock, *A. M.*—The flames are seen bursting out of the roof of a building on the west side of Broadway. Families are removing every thing from their houses in Greenwich street, and it is apprehended that nothing can prevent the fire extending in that direction. Thousands of drays and carriages of every sort are thronging the streets, removing families and their goods.

1 o'clock, *P. M.*—Although several houses have fallen a prey to the flames on the west side of Broadway; the destructive element is considered somewhat subdued—and the families in that vicinity will be enabled to return to their dwellings by night.—Numerous bands of heartless villains are prowling about, taking advantage of the misfortunes of others, and seizing all property within their reach. Mayor Havemeyer has issued a proclamation, ordering out Gen. Sandford's company of horse, to protect the property of the citizens, and calls upon all persons to assist in this great public calamity. One company of infantry are under arms, and have volunteered their aid. Lines of U. S. troops are stretched across every avenue, to prevent improper persons thronging the ways, only permitting firemen, the police, and those authorized to remove goods, to pass their ranks.

Fire Engine Companies from Brooklyn, Newark and Williamsburg repaired to the city with their Engines during the morning, and rendered valuable aid.

MONDAY, JULY 21.

The smouldering ruins still emit flame and smoke, with stench that renders promenade over them anything but agreeable, yet my duty has detained me thereabouts to gather all the earliest possible information of the result of the search which has been made since sunrise yesterday, for the bodies of the wretched victims who perished in the explosion of Saturday morning.

The most painful incident which forces itself on the attention amidst this scene of destruction, is the labors of the men digging among the ruins in search of the bodies of firemen or others presumed to be lost and buried beneath them.

Various rumors were in circulation on Saturday and yesterday relative to the origin of the fire, and attributing the explosion to sundry combustible materials, among which gunpowder stands conspicuous, and various essays upon the intrinsic properties and explosive power of saltpetre have emanated from the pens of the would-be-learned in such matters. After the most diligent inquiry, I am satisfied that the fire originated as previously stated, in the upper part of the four story brick building, No. 34 New street, occupied by J. L. Van Doren as an oil store and candle manufactory; which, with the large brick building adjoining it, occupied as a carpenter's shop, were soon in flames; but the energetic efforts of the firemen had gained a complete mastery over the ravaging element at this period, when a large building, directly in the rear, occupied by Crocker & Warren, commission merchants, took fire, in which were stored 5000 bags of saltpetre.

At this moment several minor reports were heard, with flashes of flame emitted across Broad street from the door of No. 38, which had the providential effect to drive back the multitude, before the great explosion, which occurred at 3 o'clock, with the most ruinous and fatal consequences. The building itself was, of course, scattered in fragments in an instant, and those near it were little better off, while the flames were thus communicated in an instant to half a dozen buildings in New and Broad streets and Exchange place, thus baffling for a long period every attempt of the daring firemen to stop their progress.

By the force of the concussion, the thickest plate glass in Wall street was broken in fragments, and the shock was distinctly felt at Staten Island, and at Newark, ten miles distant!

ACCOUNT OF THE EXPLOSION, BY ONE OF THE FIREMEN.

Engine Company No. 22 was buried under the ruins, and it is almost miraculous how its members escaped unhurt, as most of them did. The ground was fortunately kept clear, however, by the police, so that they had ample room to work their engine, and also to escape at the first alarm.

The following particulars were related by one of No. 22's company, relative to the position of their men at this time:—"Our pipe was ordered to the fourth story of the furniture store No. 36 Broad street,

and while we were at work in the fourth story, I perceived a large body of smoke coming up stairs. In going down to the third story, I found it wrapped in flames almost to the stairs, and I immediately ordered the members down. They all succeeded in making their escape but one. He was forced to take to the roof of the building, his egress being cut off by the flames. I then went to the street, and found the doors of No. 38 Broad street opened, and the store in flames from the roof to the cellar.

"The tail of our engine was directly opposite the front door. I ordered the members to the street, and then came down as soon as possible. We then seized the engine and tried to drag it toward Exchange street, but this was impossible, as the two hydrant streams were attached behind; thus preventing us from moving it. At the same time the fire was coming out from No. 38 Broad street, at the door nearest to Exchange street, in discharges like the broadside of a man of war; the flame, resembling a Drummond light, went in a straight line nearly across Broad street.

"Some gentlemen near our engine shouted out, 'Run for your lives, No. 22! the building is full of gunpowder!' We started, and by the time we had proceeded about thirty yards the first explosion took place. In about two seconds afterward, the second explosion went off. The air was filled with bricks, rafters, beams, and showers of fire-balls of saltpetre. The stores No. 42, 40, 38, (the building that exploded, occupied by Crocker & Warren,) also Nos. 36, 34, 32, 40, 28, and five or six large stores on the opposite side of Broad street, were all blown to atoms and set on fire. It literally rained glass, and our engine was blown across the street at the first explosion. Mr. Francis Hart, the member who took to the roof, was blown from the corner of Broad and Exchange streets, to the centre of the block between Broad and New (in Exchange) street, and escaped entirely uninjured, with the exception of a sprained ankle."

Very many ascribe this event to the gasometer of the N. Y. Gas Co., in New street, a few doors before the oil store where the fire caught, but the Chief Engineer asserts that the explosion occurred before this took fire, and the foreman of the company was engaged in forcing the lock of the gasometer house at the moment of the explosion, and subsequently flooded the sypheus, thus shutting off the gas from the lower part of the city.

LOSS OF LIFE, AND PERSONAL INJURY.

Large as was the loss of property, it sinks into comparative insignificance, when compared with the loss of life; and it cannot be too much regretted, that the brave-hearted Fireman, who nobly rushes to the rescue of the property of his fellow man, should fall a sacrifice to his benevolent intentions. We are under the painful necessity of recording instances where loss of life or limbs followed the efforts of persons who were giving assistance at the fire.



Great Explosion in Broad Street.

Augustus L. Cowdrey, a member of Engine Company No. 22, was on duty in one of the buildings in Broad street, when it fell, and lost his life.

Francis Hart, another member of No. 22, was blown by the explosion over two squares, and almost miraculously escaped with a severe sprain of the ankle. He was carried on the roof.

Hugh Kelly, belonging to the same company, was considerably injured in the head and breast by the explosion.

Timothy Waters, of the same company, was considerably injured while cutting open a door, by which he enabled twenty or twenty-five of his companions to escape from a building where they otherwise would have perished.

A chest of drawers thrown from a house in Greenwich street, just above Morris, fell upon the head of a lad, crushing his skull, and killing him almost instantly.

Giovanni Longhi, belonging to Engine Company No. 42, was blown from the top of the engine a distance of several feet, falling on his head, receiving a slight bruise only, and a sprained arm.

John Firth, of Engine Company No. 5, at the time of the explosion was taken from the ground where he was standing in front of the building, carried a distance of about forty feet, over Engine Company No. 42, and landed again without any injury, excepting a strain in his back.

Dan Van Winkle, of the same company, was managing 42's pipe in a building near the explosion, when he was blown out of a third story window and carried to the ground without material injury.

James Kelly, belonging to Engine No. 22, was severely cut in the side in passing through a window at the time of the explosion.

One of the firm of Sevin & Brother, No. 48 Broadway, had his head neck and hands much burned.

Two women were killed by the explosion in No. 37 Broad street, and a Mrs. Miller was carried to the hospital dreadfully injured.

But five injured persons (four men and a woman,) were sent to the Hospital from the burnt district, none of whom were dangerously hurt. The woman was injured by being blowing across the room at the time of the explosion, and her nose and face seriously wounded. Of the men, one had his arm broken, and another, a sailor, had his thigh dislocated by the pressure of the crowd in efforts to escape from the scene of danger at the time of the explosion.

INCIDENTS OF THE FIRE.

Among the goods destroyed by the fire were 14,300 bales of cotton, 20,000 chests of tea, 3 or 4000 hogsheads and 1500 boxes of brown sugar, 8 or 9000 bags of coffee, 600 pieces of carpeting, 2000 barrels and 5 or 600 hogsheads of molasses, 100,000 pounds fleece and pulled wool, 800 bales of Smyrna wool.

The dry goods jobbers escaped almost entirely, but the domestic goods factors suffered severely, and several large stocks of foreign manufactures were destroyed. The whole loss of dry goods was perhaps two millions and a half of dollars. There were some stocks of silks and other dry goods destroyed. The total loss is perhaps five millions, or one quarter of the amount lost in the great fire of 1835.

Detachments of United States troops tendered their services to the city Saturday morning, and remained on duty all day, protecting the property saved from the flames. The day and night police were also on duty. Col. Bankhead, commanding the United States Fort at Governor's Island, placed his force at the service of the city.

Several iron safes were saved from the ruins, many of them so little injured that the books and papers were perfectly legible.

The police officers found six hundred dollars worth of stolen property at No. 13 Moore street, consisting of carpeting in rolls, silk goods, hosiery and other dry goods, stolen at the fire, under the pretence of removal for safety.

At the Atlantic Garden, one man with large canvass trowsers, had them tied around at the ancles, and in these and his shirt bosom, was carrying off about a thousand cigars. Another had filled the bosom of his shirt with bottles of sarsaparilla.

Passing around among the ruins late on Saturday afternoon, says a spectator, we were met by a poor woman, weeping and groaning in utter despair. She told us, as well as her distress would permit, that she was looking for her "seven children," whom she left for a moment when the flames first approached her poor dwelling, in the very midst of the burnt district, and had never seen them since. Her friends tried to cheer her up by hoping that they had been found and taken care of, but like the Hebrew mother, the afflicted creature was weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they were not.

A very large quantity of whale and other oils was carried through the sewers down Broad street, and through the main sewer into the basin, covering the water to the depth of half an inch. Men in a number of small boats were busy with tin pans and wooden balers skimming the oil from the salt water, and those who had no casks, poured it into their boats. One or two boats were half filled. The greatest number of barrels filled by one man was twenty-one, and the smallest number erreenbarrels. The total amount of barrels about fifty, worth about the dollars each. Thus these poor men made great gain from the greater losses of other. Both the atmosphere and water of Whitehall t flavored with brandy and other liquors.

CAUSE OF THE EXPLOSION.

The cause of the explosion was never satisfactorily explained. The great inquiry was, "Will saltpetre explode?" The matter was discussed for months, and column after column was written for the newspapers, *pro* and *con*, and the public were as wise as ever. The opinions of scientific men were called for, and among others Prof. Silliman was called upon by a committee of the Corporation of New York. Having investigated the matter, he gave as his opinion that saltpetre of itself was not explosive, but that the gases arising from it were highly so.

THRILLING INCIDENT.—The following deeply interesting incident occurred on Saturday afternoon. Mr. James Farrel, of Brooklyn, having plunged himself into a profuse state of perspiration in his philanthropic efforts to snatch property from the devouring element, seized a handful of handkerchiefs to wipe the perspiration from his brow, whereupon he was apprehended by the Police as a thief, and committed to prison. His wife went to New York on Sunday morning, and searched in vain for her husband. Farrell's lawyer called upon her during the day, and informed her of the fate and safety of her husband, and told her that he would restore him to her on Monday morning. Monday morning came, and the Justice left the city for the country, leaving the prisoner and some thirty others in confinement. The Lawyer proposed to give bail for 10, 15 or \$20,000; but the Clerk of the Court was inexorable, saying that he could not interfere with the course of justice, (the law knows no mercy,) and he was only liberated by a writ of *habeas corpus*. The trial was ordered—no evidence adduced, and the innocent man was restored to his distracted wife.



THE NEW YORK MERCHANT.

AN INCIDENT OF THE GREAT CONFLAGRATION.

A GENTLEMAN of Brooklyn, learning early on Saturday that his store in New York was in danger from the fire, hastened to the scene of destruction. On arriving at his store, he found that the fire had already made considerable progress in the building. He hesitated but a moment, and was about to spring up the burning stairway when he was seized by some of the bystanders, and asked if he was a madman thus to meet certain death so rashly. "Hold me not back, gentlemen," he said, "I am not mad; but I must and will save my iron chest, though I perish in the attempt." Then, with a sudden effort, he released himself from those who, in kindness, would have held him back, and in a moment more had passed the burning staircase, and was next seen running from room to room, despite the blaze and smoke of the burning building. The key of his safe, it appears, was not to be found in its usual place, and disappointed in not being able to obtain the contents, he made an effort to remove the safe itself. Failing in this, he left the building, and entreated some of the bystanders to aid him. All refused,

for destruction seemed certain. Again did he plunge amidst the destructive element. He had scarcely reached the spot where stood the safe, when two men, who had witnessed his previous efforts, stood beside him, and vowed they would stick by him to the last. The crowd thinking the men had followed him for the purpose of rescuing him from his dangerous purpose, shouted, "Knock him down—drag him out—he'll be killed."

With the assistance of the two men, the safe was dragged close to the hatchway, and the fall was about to be made fast, so as to lower it down, when at the moment the rear of the store fell inward. A huge mass of smoke and flames ascended on high, and the hoisting apparatus fell, some part of the woodwork having been burned away. A cry of horror broke from the witnesses of the scene, as the three men were enveloped in smoke and fire, and hid from their view. Presently the two strangers emerged from the building, and were greeted with cheers by the crowd. The merchant, it was thought, was irredeemably lost, but not so. He had fallen down in a stupor; but quickly recovering, however, he was seen—when the smoke, consequent upon the falling in of the rear wall, had cleared somewhat away—by the chest, striving with all his might to tumble it down the hatchway. The people collected around were amazed, and they thought him crazy and invulnerable. The fire was above below and all around him, and how the merchant stood there alive and seemingly unhurt, was a mystery no one could explain. On witnessing his exertions at the chest, every one held his breath; and save the crackling of the timbers and the distant shouts of the firemen, not a sound or whisper could be heard. See! the chest moves, and now comes tumbling down the hatchway, amid the applause of the crowd. It rolled out the door and fell into the entrance to the basement. The merchant was lost sight of for a moment, but he soon stood on the sidewalk, blackened and scorched with the smoke and flame, and again asked for aid to remove his chest from its then position. The answer was,—“Come from beneath—the whole front is falling—you will perish.” He exclaimed,—“Then it shall cover me, for the safe I will rescue, or be buried with it;” and then rushed into the burning pile. The feelings of those who beheld him cannot be described.

He proceeded to a place in his office, where he knew was placed a small hatchet, took it, climbed to the third story with astonishing agility, and secured the rope from the burning drum to which it had been secured, but was not yet burnt off, and down he sprang again. At times he was hid from the sight of those assembled outside, and again he would be seen floating about as though he were proof against destruction, and a cheer would ascend. Soon he was standing on the sidewalk with the severed rope over his shoulder, but in an instant one side of the store fell in and he was hidden by a volume of fire and smoke. That cleared away, and he was seen hard at work on the safe, endeavoring to thrust the hook at the end of the rope through its handle. He succeeded, and carrying the other end of the rope in his hand, came as far as it would permit of towards the crowd, and was received with the most

Burning of Harpers' Printing Establishment, New York, Nov. 10, 1853.



At one o'clock in the afternoon of Saturday, December 10th, 1853, the City Hall and other bells throughout New York rung forth an alarm of fire, and in a few moments after a dense smoke might have been seen rising up from the eastern section of the city. With the first sound of the bell the firemen might be seen moving rapidly toward the scene of the conflagration, in the extensive printing and publishing establishment of Harper & Brothers, located in Cliff and Pearl streets, near Ferry street. The news spread with unusual rapidity throughout the city, calling together an immense crowd of excited people. Cliff street, from Frankfort street on the north to Beekman on the south, and Franklin square, were filled with one compact mass of spectators.

The fire took in the Cliff street portion of the establishment, in a room where camphene was used for washing rollers: The fluid in this room was instantly in a blaze, and the flames were carried by the strong draught through the hatchways and openings for the dumb-waiters, into every story of the building. The flames burst through the partitions with great fury, and swept in all directions of the rooms, from building to building, until five of them were entirely enveloped in flames. The spread of a fire thus started in an establishment filled with such combustible materials, as not only bound but unbound books in immense quantities in the drying-rooms and binderies, may be better imagined than described.

THE TERROR AND RESCUE OF THE OPERATIVES.

There was a large number of employees engaged in the establishment, including about four hundred females employed in the extensive binderies, &c. The panic among the latter class was terrible, and the escape of many of them from the prison-house of flame, would, without aid, have been impossible.

When the flames first made their appearance, the scenes were of the most thrilling character. Some six hundred human beings were in the establishment, scattered through the different floors, crying and screaming for assistance, to save them from perishing in the fiery element that

nearly surrounded them on all sides. Young girls between the ages of twelve and nineteen years, rushed to the windows of the second, third, fourth and fifth stories of all the buildings on both streets, imploring aid ! The panic was terrific, and strange to say, not a single life was known to be lost by the disastrous occurrence.

The first and most important work done, was the rescuing of the male and female operatives, by the Hook and Ladder Companies, assisted by their brother firemen, police and citizens.

Capt. Rosenquest, the foreman of the bindery, was very efficient in forcing many of the girls to go down the stairway, before the ladders had arrived, and by his coolness and courage, aided in saving lives, as well as valuable account and other books.

Eliza Totten, in the confusion and excitement, jumped from a fourth story window. She was first observed by a young gentleman, who stood in a position to partially catch her in his arms. He held out his arms, but she came with such force that he was unable to save her from falling on the ground ; yet the fall was somewhat broken. As the poor girl came to the ground, she struck upon her hip, producing a dislocation and other injuries of a serious nature.

The long ladders were quickly hoisted to the windows on both streets, and by careful and judicious management the vast numbers were carefully landed in the street within the short space of twenty minutes from the time the alarm was first sounded by the City Hall bell. Several of the girls were very nervous, and while descending the ladders with firemen and others, two or three of them fainted, but were speedily resuscitated at a drug store in the immediate vicinity.

Soon after the alarm was given, three young women were seen for a moment at a window in the third story of the burning building. Apparently they were either paralyzed with fear, or overcome by the smoke which surrounded them. As soon as the report of their perilous situation reached the ears of a young man in the crowd, he instantly darted into the house and up the stairs, to the room indicated by some persons outside. He called loudly to the young women, but received no answer. Finding himself unable to enter the room in an upright position, owing to the dense smoke which prevailed, he crept on his hands and knees to the window, near which he found the objects of his solicitude, prostrate and helpless. He was obliged to drag them one by one to the stairs, and with a great deal of difficulty he succeeded in getting them to the open air. He soon had the satisfaction of seeing them sufficiently recovered to go to their respective homes, while he, to avoid much questioning by the bystanders, hurried off to his place of business.

The dress of one of the young ladies caught fire, and she only saved herself by stripping it off, when she was taken up by officer Masterson, and conveyed to her home.

Most of the workmen employed in the press-room were compelled to rush out for their lives, being unable to seize even their hats and coats. All the presses were at work, but not one of them, not even one of the stereotype plates could be saved.

In little more than an hour after the alarm was sounded, the spectacle was awfully grand. By this time the flames had swept through from Cliff to Pearl street, scarce anything remaining of this immense publishing house but the bare walls ; within these, the flames were furiously raging, having the appearance of a great lake of fire. Adjoining the Harpers' establishment, on the south side of Pearl street, was the large six story building, Nos. 321 and 323, occupied by Messrs. George F. Cooledge & Bros., extensive school book publishers and dealers. The fire communicated with this establishment at the attic stories, and all efforts to subdue the flames were of no avail. From floor to floor the fire made its way to the basement, and destroyed the entire building, with the vast amount of property inside.

About half-past two o'clock a portion of the walls of the Harper and Cooledge buildings, on Cliff and Pearl streets, fell with a tremendous crash. The apprehension of the spectators was truly horrible, as the destruction of many blocks of buildings in the vicinity seemed inevitable. The wind was blowing fresh for a part of the time, and large coals of fire were carried into Beekman and other streets, falling thick and fast upon the roofs of buildings, and the heads of the assembled spectators.

THRILLING SCENES.

Between two and four o'clock, the crowd in Franklin square was beyond conception. All the avenues leading into it had become packed with human beings, and the awful heat of the last of the Harper buildings, and the old Walton House and Hotel, had driven back the front ranks of the crowd, till they were shut into those behind, like the case of a telescope. The view of both sides of the street and down the square, and through Pearl street, was magnificent.

In rapid succession, the fronts of the tall buildings had gone down, crash after crash, as the beams gave way with the weight of thirty-three power presses, while the burning contents of all those rooms glowed up like a sea of melted lava, while north and south the flames were pouring out of the windows of five story buildings, from basement to attic, reaching their forked tongues over the wide street, and ever and again interlocking with those from the roof and upper windows of the tall hotel opposite ;—while the smoke rolled up in dense black masses, from the pine materials of the unfinished building, with just wind enough to waft it lazily away toward the East river.

From the basement of those buildings first in ruins, where there was an enormous amount of paper stored, there came up a pale yellow smoke, with a sulphurous blue tinge, arching over the street, under the tongues of flame which shot out of the black smoke above, while the sun, now directly over the street, gave the whole a crimson tinge, never before equalled, and we hope never to be equalled again. This was a grand fire-picture, and, if it could be transferred to canvas, would ex-

ceed any thing ever painted. This scene was only witnessed from Franklin square, and the height of its glory lasted only for about a quarter of an hour.

It was just at the point of time when the sun was passing over Pearl street—when the tall buildings were pouring out their smoke and flames—when the smoke and steam from the burning paper had all the appearance of the “white light” of the theatre—when the spray of water from the engines, as it fell in pearly showers, formed in the sun’s rays instant rainbows, with all the prismatic colors, that came and went like flashes—while the partly fallen walls stood in towers and fragments, like the ruined battlements of some old castle; while other walls were going down crash after crash in deafening thunders; while from every housetop the leather caps and red shirts of the firemen gave evidence to those who filled every foot of standing room in the streets, that they were born to conquer; that fiercely as the fire was raging, it could rage no farther;—that they had drawn a cordon of an opposite element around it, and bade it defiance. It was at this point of time, when the air was a sea of fire, and the earth a sea of human beings, that the sketch should have been taken.

It was at this time, when all the alarm bells from City Hall to Harlem had said to the firemen, “Come! come quickly! come with willing hearts and strong hands!” It was now that one of the up-town engines came thundering down Pearl street, now so completely blocked that it was difficult to work one’s way through the immense crowd of excited human beings. How they shout, “Way, there! way, there! give way there for the firemen!” “Hurrah! another engine—fresh hands. Way there!” the firemen shout, and the crowd echo. How can such a crowd give way?—yet they must, for that engine is ordered to pass through Franklin square, down Dover to Water street, to send up its copious streams upon the rear of the burning buildings on that side. “Way there!” they shout, and the foremost ropemen dash headlong among the sea of heads—the waves recede—a little lane opens—the engine dashes through—the waves fall back, and all again is one compact mass of men.

Now there is another commotion. A woman has followed the engine down town, running as fast as it ran, till it reached the crowd. Before she could penetrate the mass, the wave rolled back, and she is left behind. Why has she followed them so fast and so far, that she is almost breathless, and now stands on the corner of Pearl street and the square, at the north end, straining her eyes beyond the crowd, at the flames which are licking up the roof of the old Walton House? Reader, she is a mother—an emigrant, just arrived. Her husband died at sea—her two children and the little all she has on earth are, or were, in that old mansion. She left them both sick in the morning, to find a brother, who lives in one of that collection of shanties at Fortieth street and First avenue, known as “Tinkertown.” She had found the place—had found a home—such as it was—for her children, and was on her way down

for them, when the engine passed her, and she heard the shout, "to Franklin square!" Instinctively she thought of her sick children, and fancy pictured to her mind that they were in the burning building. To her, Franklin square had but one side, one house, one treasure, one danger. Fear lent her wings—maternal love gave her strength to reach the upper end of the square, and there her fears were all confirmed. She saw the very house in flames. What was the agony of that moment! She could not go on; she could not stay; she could groan and weep; she could touch the heart of one who could help her.

It was only one more of the good acts of the Police witnessed that day. He listened a moment, caught the idea that her children were in the burning house—assured her they were saved—but that did not satisfy her; she prayed to go and see, but could not get through the crowd. "You shall! Take my hand—the left hand—come!" And he shouted, "Way, there, Police!"—and pushed with his other hand right and left, drawing the poor woman after him faster than they would have gone in open space, down across the square; and there from the sidewalk came up two little voices—"Mother! Mother!"

What a load of woe was lifted from that woman's heart! what a thanksgiving went up through the smoke and flame to Heaven from that mother's tongue!

What thanksgivings went up all day, all night, all round the fire, all up and down the narrow streets, even among those who were turned out doors, that the conflagration was not among the dwellings of the poor, that few were rendered houseless, none lifeless,—that the calamity had not fallen upon those already borne down to the earth, that although it was a sad calamity, although a great loss to the owners of that vast establishment, yet Heaven has blest their labors, and the great house of the Harpers will rise as it did before, like a phoenix from its ashes, and spread its wings abroad over the land till they make a more glorious picture for the American lovers of good works to gaze upon, than that which was painted in flames, smoke and sunlight in Franklin square on Saturday afternoon, December 10, 1853.

CAUSE OF THE FIRE.

An investigation into the cause of the fire showed that it originated from EXTREME CAUTION, and not from carelessness.

Having suffered from a fire some ten years previous, the Harpers had taken extraordinary precautions to prevent the recurrence of such a calamity. They had a large steam boiler in the cellar; no other fire was ever allowed to be used about the building in any form. The gas lights were so arranged as to be perfectly safe. All the buildings were heated with steam pipes, and instead of the charcoal furnaces generally used in bindery establishments for heating the tools, gas burners had been provided to take their place.

It is necessary to clean the *ink rollers* used in the printing presses;

and this can be done most effectually by employing *camphene*. In order to render the use of this perfectly safe, a small room had been provided on the third floor of the lower building on Pearl street, adjoining the press room, so as to be easy of access from it. This room had been carefully *lined with zinc*. The camphene used was kept in shallow iron pans, and the paper, rags, &c., with which it was applied, were scattered about the room.

It seems that a *plumber* was employed in this room on Saturday to make some repairs; and in the course of his work he had occasion to use a light. He lit an oil lamp, and *threw the match into one of the camphene pans, supposing it to be water*. It blazed up instantly, burning him severely, and in his haste to get away he upset the pan, which spread the flame still more widely—sweeping with tremendous fury through the entire range of buildings. This occurred at a quarter past one o'clock, and in less than *two hours* the entire establishment was in ruins

AMOUNT OF LOSSES BY THE FIRE.

The following is a list of the persons burned out, together with the loss and the amount insured:—

Harper & Brothers,	\$1,205,000	\$250,000
Coolidge & Bros.,	100,000	100,000
A. Howell,	2,000	2,000
A. Dougherty,	12,000	12,000
J. Shultz,	1,500	1,500
J. K. Huppell,	4,000	8,000
Mr. Dunscomb,	1,500	1,500
Wm. W. Thayer,	6,000	
J. Bradley,	2,000	2,000
J. Kelley,	6,000	1,500
J. Rucastle,	2,000	2,000
Wm. Bloodgood,	2,000	3,000
J. Brown,	2,500	
Noyland & Williams,	8,000	4,500
F. Hemmell,	1,000	
Losses of others,	19,000	
Total,	\$1,374,500	\$388,000

Thus it will be seen that the loss of Harper & Brothers approached near to a million of dollars over the insurance. Their stereotype plates, amounting to half a million dollars more, were stored in vaults running beneath the street, and the fire could not reach them.

Mr. Adams, who did the engraving for the splendid Pictorial Bible issued by the Harpers, was half owner of the copies of that work which were destroyed, and his loss was stated at \$25,000.

Destruction of the Pemberton Mills, Lawrence, Mass.

THE Pemberton Mills was one of the finest in the country, and was erected in 1853, by the Essex Land and Water Company, for the Pemberton Mills Corporation. The machinery was of the best manufacture, and the mill was put in operation in the fall of 1853, which has continued without any material change in manufactured articles or ownership until the revulsion in 1857, when, owing to the depressed state of the market, and the large importations from Europe, the Corporation were obliged to suspend operation and dispose of their property at auction.

All the property of the Corporation was purchased by Messrs. Geo. Homer and Edward Nevins of Boston, both of whom are experienced manufacturers, and the mill was again put in operation by these gentlemen, under the corporated name of the Pemberton Mills Company. Some time in March 1858, the mill had been running but a short time, before the manufacturing business began to revive, and with the go-aheadativeness of the new proprietors, the mill was kept constantly running, until the day of the accident, January 10th, 1860, by which, nearly 100 persons were killed, and a much larger number badly injured, casting a gloom over the country, that has never been equalled.

The following description of the mill, with an account of the machinery used, will be interesting to the public. The Corporation embraced no less than five buildings, which were of the following dimensions:—

The main building was 280 feet long, 84 feet wide, and five stories high, with an ell six stories high, 84 feet long and 37 feet wide. The first story of the main building, was used for weaving, and contained four hundred looms. The second story was used for cording, and the following machinery was in operation, viz: 176 cords, 28 reeling heads, 16 drawing frames, 8 slubbers, 14 fly frames and 4 cord grinders.

In the third story were the twisting and spinning machines (to wit), 79 spinning frames, with 160 spindles each, and two of Mason's mules of 608 spindles each.

The fourth story was used as a cording and spinning room, and had in it 40 cards, 3 reeling heads, 4 drawing frames, 2 slubbers, 9 fly frames, 14 Sharp & Roberts' mules, with 672 spindles each, and twenty drawing frames.

The fifth story was used for dressing, warping, spooling, winding, grinding and reeling, with the following number of machines, viz: 20 dressers, 24 warpers, 19 winders, 8 spoolers, 2 grinders and 22 reels.

The different stories of the ell were used for the following purposes. First story for a packing room. Second for a counting room. Third fourth and fifth for cloth and finishing rooms. The sixth story for reeling. The dye house and picker building was 150 feet long, 60 wide,

and four stories high. A weaving shed one story high, 100 feet long, and 36 feet wide. The cotton house was two stories high, 100 feet long, and 48 feet wide.

The second stories of the dye and cotton houses were used as weaving rooms, and contained 160 looms. In the weaving shed were 84 looms, making 650 looms in the mills. The number of spindles in use was twenty-nine thousand.

When the mill was in full operation, the amount of cotton warped into cloth, 60,000 pounds per week, producing 150,000 yards. There was used in driving the machinery in the mill, three turbine wheels, of 200 horse power each. The building was heat by steam, and the boiler used for generating it occupied a small building by itself.

The mill and the other property of the Corporation, originally cost \$800,000, but was purchased by Hofner & Nevins at auction for three hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars.

At the time of the falling of the mill, it was insured with the machinery for \$415,000. Against fire the building was well protected, there being force pumps in the picker house, which was located in the rear of the main building, and a line of hose running from the pumps to every room in the mill.

At the time of the calamity, which was attended with such heart-rending scenes, there were nearly a thousand persons employed in the mill, and the escape of four-fifths from almost instant death, seems as it were a miracle.

THE CALAMITY.

This sad catastrophe which cast a gloom over the country, and created an excitement that has never been equalled, occurred on the afternoon of Jan. 10th, 1860. The mill at the time was in full operation, and as it fell, it buried beneath the ruins over 100 of those who were at work within its walls. The destruction of the main building was complete, but with all the misery with which it was attended, it was nothing in comparison to the horrible scenes with which it was followed.

As soon as the people in the vicinity of the mill had recovered from the stupefaction into which they were thrown by the calamity, they at once went to work to rescue those from the ruins who were known to be alive, as their cries for assistance could be distinctly heard by those who had gathered around the scene of the disaster. The work of removing the live and dead, from among the machinery and timbers, had rapidly progressed from 5 o'clock until 11 P. M., and every one was buoyed up with the hope, that all who were buried in the ruins and alive, would be got out with no other injury than those received by the falling walls, timber and machinery. But alas! it was not to be. Many who had escaped death by the falling walls, were only reserved for a more horrible fate. A hospital had been made of the main room in the City Hall, where the wounded, dead and dying, were carried as fast as they were taken from the ruins.

With steady blows the work proceeded, and barrier after barrier was

removed as the laborers worked their way into the inner part of the ruins. Every advance exposed the dead and wounded and the imprisoned, and they were borne away. After the panic of the alarm, which lasted a few minutes, the men fell into companies, as they could work most advantageously, and labored with perfect discipline. When the workmen heard the appeals for rescue, and saw those inside of the massive timbers, who could be relieved with continued effort, when even some were seen alive and apparently unhurt, to whom were extended words of hope and assurance, the dreadful cry of "Fire!" was heard, which spread dismay over the assembly, and covered the faces of the workmen with a despair that they had not before known. Almost superhuman exertions were made when this new horror developed itself; but the flames spread rapidly over the whole mass, and many of those who had escaped the dangers of the crash, were literally roasted alive.

The fire spread with fearful rapidity, and in a few moments the entire mass of ruins were a sheet of flame, and by one o'clock, there was nothing to be seen but a mass of black smoking ruins. The water works connected with the mill were rendered useless by the destruction of the building; still there was a large amount of water poured upon the fire from various sources. Even streams were obtained from the hydrants of the Washington Mills, the fire department of Lawrence was prompt and indefatigable in its labors, and a steam fire engine from Manchester, arrived at a late hour after the fire broke out, did efficient service. The ruins were deluged with water, but still the presence of cotton waste, saturated with oil, the floors rendered combustible by the dripping oil from the machinery, and above all the depth at which the fire originated and burned, rendered it difficult to extinguish.

Many of the operatives found shelter under the several floors, which, being very strongly constructed, did not fall entirely to pieces. But what was to them a protection from the crushing effects of the fall of the building, proved their final destruction. When the fire broke out, these floors shed the water like roofs, leaving the flames to rage beneath them, and the unfortunate were beyond the hope of rescue. Their groans and shrieks were heart-rending, and the greatest exertions were made to save them, but in vain.

The news of the accident had spread like wildfire, and an immense concourse of people from the surrounding towns had assembled around the ruins, and as an evidence of the feeling which existed, the firemen lightened their labors at the brakes, and cheered each other, not with gay and idle songs, but with revival melodies and old fashioned psalms. The excitement continued for more than a week, and during that time the city was thronged with visitors from far and near.

The mill gave way at the top near the south east corner, and the floors seemed to have descended without breaking apart, which accounts for the large number saved, while it shows that they would have been rescued but for the fire. Quite a number of those who were taken out alive, owe their safety to the looms being of an arched shape, which

resisted the weight of the machinery and floors, and left space enough for the sufferers to move about in.

The City Hall having been converted into a temporary hospital, mattresses, blankets and sheets, bandages, cordials and medicines, were sent in from every direction. The ladies of the vicinity promptly contributed beds and blankets, and druggists supplied from the contents of their stores. The settees were cleared from the floor, and piled in tiers along the walls. Next to these were placed rows of mattresses, arranged in close proximity on three sides of the hall. The platform at the head of the hall was used as a dispensary. At half an hour past midnight, scarcely a mattress was untenanted, and the groans of 45 wounded persons were mingling with the heart-rending cries of relatives and friends. But few, except those whose presence was necessary to the suffering and dying, were admitted to the room. A large number of physicians were in attendance on the wounded, while others, exhausted with continual watching, working and waiting, over broken limbs and bruised bodies, lay down on a vacant mattress for a brief rest.

Some of the sufferers were groaning in agony, some were wild with pain to their last moment; others quietly breathed their last, or bore their suffering in silence. Everywhere were blood, bruises and broken limbs. Nearly every one of the wounded here, had a leg or an arm broken. To one unacquainted with the scenes of the dead-house or the hospital, the spectacle was loathsome, sickening, horrible. But the painful cries of the wounded were overshadowed by the mental anguish of the heart-stricken friends.

THE HALL OF DEATH.

In one corner of the hall, was a large room which had been arranged for the reception of the unrecognized dead. The room was literally covered with mangled corpses, presenting no less than 27 bodies covered with wounds and bruises. They were as they had been taken from the ruins, mostly naked, and covered with blood or begrimed with smoke and dirt. As they were recognized, they were either taken away by their friends, or removed to the receiving vault in the cemetery.

SELF POSSESSION.

Among those who had exhibited a presence of mind worthy of record, was a Miss Olivia Bridges, from Calais, Maine. At the time of the accident, she hearing a cracking, jumped and caught hold of the elevator chain, and passed to the ground in safety, a distance of seventy feet.

MIRACULOUS ESCAPE OF DIFFERENT PERSONS.

Henry Nice, a brother of Thomas Nice, whose wife was killed in the ruins, relates an interesting narrative of his experience. He was employed in the boiler-house, and at the moment of the disaster was engaged in putting a wick in a lamp. He heard a noise which he cannot describe, and stood up for an instant, when he was struck on the shoulder by a heavy article. He thrust himself head foremost against

a door opening outwards, and fell into the porch, the door and the space about him being instantly filled with brick, and his body confined to the most uncomfortable limits. A cloud of steam and dust penetrated the *debris* and nearly suffocated him, but by almost superhuman efforts he succeeded in making a passage through the ruins and reached a place of security.

A woman was taken from the ruins by her friends, and as the position was one in which no hope could be entertained of her being alive, but after she was brought out from the ruins, she suddenly revived, and springing up, cried out "I am safe! I am safe!"

While the workmen were engaged in clearing away the rubbish, they found the body of a little girl lying under a large block of iron, which weighed about a thousand pounds, and completely wedged in by machinery. After moving the machinery, the block of iron was raised, and the girl taken out, and instead of being as it was supposed, dead, she was alive and but slightly injured.

Damon Wyhom, an overseer in charge of the looms in the basement and first story, was buried beneath twelve feet of ruin. By almost superhuman exertion, and after repeatedly sinking back in despair, he succeeded in clearing a passage to where he could be reached by those outside, and was saved.

A boy, at work in one of the upper rooms, hearing the crash, had the presence of mind to jump into the waste-box, which, with its occupant, was buried several feet beneath the ruins. When the rescuers raised the pile of rubbish from the box, the young hero sprang out of his narrow prison, and walked away as coolly as if nothing had happened.

Another boy who had acquired the use of the "dudeen," on being extricated from beneath a mass of machinery, walked away, took a pipe from his pocket and went to smoking.

THE LAST ONE RESCUED.

Mr. Ira D. Locke, of Deering, N. H., who worked in the weaving room, was the last person rescued alive from the ruin. He was not got out until twelve o'clock. He was already scorched by fire, and it was raging so fiercely about him that he directed his rescuers not to risk their own lives for his safety. His resignation prompted them to new efforts. He lost his reason soon after he was rescued, and remained for several days in a critical condition, being badly burned.

THE SEARCH FOR THE DEAD.

The fire which had completed the horrors of the disaster, continued to rage during the night, and as the morning dawned, all that was left of the ruins could be discerned through the smoke and half smothered fire that was still rising from the funeral pile. A large part of the crowd that had been battling with the flames, had dispersed, some to seek for the lost, while others went to attend the wounded, and a portion to seek that repose which they so much needed. Some lingered about the scene, and their number was increased by the arrival of

the trains from the adjoining towns. Each arriving train brought crowds of visitors, who gathered to gaze on the disaster till the bridge the ice-bound canal, and the street that overlooked it, was thronged. They pressed as close to the ruin as the heat of the still smoking pile would allow. The firemen, many of them, were still at work. Gradually the ruins became cool enough to allow the workmen to resume the search for dead bodies, and energetically they plied themselves to the task, not with the moderation of hirelings, but spurred on by intense anxiety and despair, tempered with the hope of finding at last the remains of those they were seeking.

A cold drizzling rain had set in, which during the night had changed to snow, and but few remained about the ruins. In the evening the Pemberton Company took charge of the ruins, but many of the common laborers had friends among the dead and wounded, while nearly all who took an interest in the search for the missing, were worn out by fatigue.

Derricks were raised to hoist the heavy masses of machinery, and from this time to the close of the week, bodies were almost hourly recovered and conveyed to the dead room at the City Hall. Some were found in nearly a perfect state, and were easily recognized; others were however mutilated or disfigured, and could only be identified by fragments of clothing. Quite a number of persons present bore away with them a relic of the disaster. A gentleman from St. Louis, procured a large bundle, taking not only fragments of clothing found upon the victims, spindles and yarn from the general mass of ruins, but even a part of a brick, and the mortar which came from its surface. Several gentlemen from New York were laden with relics.

When the firemen become exhausted, a large number of ladies, hurriedly volunteered and manned the brakes of the engines, and did good service in their capacity as firemen.

RELIEF FOR THE SUFFERERS.

Scarcely had it become known that the accident had happened, and that the material comforts of life were needed by the victims, than evidences were given of the wide-spread sympathy which the catastrophe had awakened throughout the country. Three thousand persons were dependent upon nine hundred for their support, who were out of employment. Children had lost their parents, brothers and sisters who had been dependent upon each other had become separated, and aged and infirm parents, who depended upon their children, were rendered childless, all of which demanded speedy relief. An appeal was made by Mayor D. Saunders, Jr., which moved the hearts of those who possessed the means to give, until there was no danger from poverty, there being about thirty thousand dollars received by the committee on relief to be expended on the sufferers.

OBSERVANCE OF THE EVENT.

The great calamity was the theme of the citizens as they met in the

street, and the pulpit and the forum. Wherever the voice was heard, its horrors were rehearsed and its lessons enforced. In Lawrence on the succeeding sabbath, every preacher but one delivered a discourse especially adapted to the occasion. And the event was noticed by the clergymen of all denominations through the land. In consequence of the calamity, the Mayor of Lawrence made a proclamation setting apart a day for fasting and prayer which was observed by all classes and denominations.

THE NUMBER OF KILLED AND WOUNDED.

The total number of killed was 90 ; missing 14 ; badly injured 134 ; slightly injured 170 ; total 528.

THE CORONER'S INQUEST.

An inquest over the bodies of those killed by the catastrophe, commenced Thursday morning, Jan. 12th, at the City Hall in Lawrence, and continued for ten days. After examining an innumerable number of witnesses, and wading through an amount of testimony rarely equalled, in relation to the cause of the accident, the jury returned the following verdict, which for verbosity is unexcelled.

The jury after giving the names of the dead upon whom the inquest was held, say that William H. P. Wright, Jason H. Dana, Leonard Stoddard, Edward Page, Leonard F. Creesy, and S. P. Simmons, good and lawful men, who, being charged and sworn to inquire for the Commonwealth, when, how, and by what means the said persons came to their deaths, upon their oaths do say :

That said persons came to their death on Tuesday, the tenth day of January present, between the hours of 4 o'clock and 30 minutes, and 5 o'clock in the afternoon of said day, by the sudden falling of a brick building, used for manufacturing purposes, and known as the Pemberton Mill, situated in Lawrence, in said county of Essex, said persons being at the time employed as operatives inside of said mill.

FALL OF THE MILL.

The jury find that this mill fell from no natural cause, but that it was owing to the construction of the mill, the insufficiency and imperfection of the material used, and the improper arrangement of the same. The brick walls of said mill were unusually thin for a mill of such height, length and breadth ; that the space of brick wall above and below the windows in said mill were unusually small ; that the length of span from one support to another, under the floor timbers, as well as the distance from one floor-timber to another, was greater than in other mills ; and that the mill in consequence thereof was insecure and unsafe.

THE FAMOUS PILLARS.

The Jury find that the inner supports in said mill were cast iron pillars, with cast iron pintles beneath, and cast iron plates above each pillar, resting upon a cast iron plate upon the top of a brick pier. Below the lower floor stood a cast iron pintle, sixteen inches long and three

inches in diameter and one and one-eighth inches thick, the lower side of the pintle flange being above the floor timbers, which timbers, in the lower floor, had their bearing directly upon the iron plates and brick piers below. And that the said pillars were outrageously defective, some of them being upon one side only one-eighth of an inch in thickness; others bearing conclusive evidence of a want of sharpness in the material at the time of casting, and nearly all of them exhibited a reckless disregard and inexcusable negligence on the part of the founder, in not providing a proper fastening of the core, which proper fastening was necessary to prevent floating of the core, and consequently an unequal distribution of the molten iron. They also find that the pillars exhibiting on the one side an insufficiency of material, upon the other side lack a corresponding excess to make the pillars in thickness what, by contract, was agreed upon.

WHERE AND BY WHOM THEY WERE CAST.

The Jury find that these pillars were cast at the Eagle Iron Foundry, in West Boston, in the county of Suffolk, under a contract made by Mr. J. Pickering Putnam with one Albert Fuller, then acting as contract agent for one John C. Woods, supposed to have been proprietor of the same, both of whom now reside out of the Commonwealth, the jury were unable personally to examine. Yet they are satisfied that no reliable test was applied by the founder or those in his employ.

The Jury find that at the time of the delivery of these pillars at Lawrence, and previous to their erection, no test of the same was ordered by the engineer superintending the construction, nor was any applied.

THE CONFLAGRATION.

The Jury find that the fire originating after the fall of said mill, was caused by the accidental breaking of a lantern in the hands of some person to them unknown, at the time actually engaged in aiding, assisting and rescuing sufferers then alive, and beneath the floorings of the mill.

THE DIRECT CAUSE OF THE CATASTROPHE.

Upon all of which several findings the Jury determined and say that the direct cause of the fall of this mill was the weakness and insufficiency of the cast iron shoring. That the thinness of the brick walls, and their manner of construction, the length of span from one support to another, beneath the floor timbers, as well as distance from one floor timber to another, were additional causes, and aided in the general demolition of the building.

THE RESPONSIBILITY LOCATED.

That so far as actual defects in the cast iron pillars existed, the responsibility rests upon Albert Fuller, the former contracting agent and foreman of the Eagle Iron Foundry, then at West Boston.

CAPT. BIGELOW IN PARTICULAR.

That upon Charles H. Bigelow, being the architect as well as super-

intendent of this structure, rests all responsibility arising from an insufficient test of said pillars and from any and every defect, weakness, and insecurity apparent on and about the general construction of said building. That the walls were laid under his supervision; that the timbers and floorings were in every respect constructed and located as he originally designed; that the inner supports of cast iron, previous to the erection, had his approval, and were by him adopted as in all parts safe and secure; that such inspection that he required was given to the iron pillars, and that any want of skill in designing, any error of judgment in approving or adapting, any want of due care and caution in properly testing the different portions of the structure on his part appearing, to that extent rendered him responsible for the direful catastrophe involving the deaths of twenty-two human beings.

THE JURY FACE THE MUSIC AND SIGN.

In witness whereof the said Coroner and Jurors to this inquisition have set their hands and seals this second day of February, in the year above said.

(Signed.)

WM. D. LAMB, Coroner,
WM. H. P. WRIGHT,
J. H. DANA,
LEONARD STODDARD,
EDWARD PAGE,
L. F. CREESY,
S. P. SIMMONS.

Burning of the Truro House, Newport, R. I.

On the 8th of January, 1850, about 10 A. M., the alarm of fire was given, and found to proceed from the Truro House. The fire seemed to have originated under the stair-way in the basement and following the stairs and ballustrade directly up to the attic, breaking through the roof before it had spread much in the lower story. The fire originated in the basement, and was discovered about half an hour after the servant had retired for the night. A crowd soon assembled and every effort was made to save the property, but the flames and smoke soon rendered it impossible to do much, and even the removal of furniture was soon checked. In a surprising short time the whole structure was a mass of flames, and in less than an hour the sides fell in. In the meantime, Mr. Robert Coggeshall's cottage, on the east, Mr. Stephen P. Slocum's house, on the north, Mrs. Geffroy's on the west, and the barn and cook-houses on the south, had all taken fire, and with the exception of Mr. Slocum's, were soon level with the ground. A portion of the furniture in the dwellings was removed. Great fears were

entertained for the safety of Mr. Gilliat's house, and the buildings in that direction. The furniture in part was removed, a large carpet thrown over his barn, and water was freely thrown upon the roof of the house. Saving the barn checked the progress of the fire in that direction, and the house of Mr. Slocum, on the north, being of oak, and plastered in the attic, burned slowly, which enabled the firemen to arrest the flames in that quarter. For a couple of hours or more the scene was a frightful one. The streets were rendered nearly impassable, owing to the recent, almost unprecedented, fall of snow, the cold was intense, (two degrees below zero); the air was filled with cinders and sparks that rose in clouds from the light and combustible materials; the engines could only be moved by harnessing to them horses and oxen, and the firemen were constantly working the machines throughout the night, water or no water, to keep them from freezing up; the cracking of the flames, the ominous sound of falling timbers, the tearing down of fences, calls for water, and the running to and fro of the many who were engaged in carrying valuables to a place of safety, altogether made a scene as novel in Newport as it was alarming. The heavy fall of snow was a great hindrance to the firemen, but it also served to prevent a greater spread; for generally the roofs of buildings were covered, and there was a bank of snow wherever a spark of fire could rest. Towards midnight the wind slackened, and by one o'clock, the fire in the building on the north side having been got under,—those on the south side having burnt entirely up.

Of the three buildings on the south side of Truro street, there was hardly enough wood left to cook a dinner. Of the Truro House there was not a piece a yard in length. The cottage belonging to Mr. Devens, corner of Truro and Kay streets, was scorched, and at one time was on fire; but the flames on the next building were checked in time to save it.

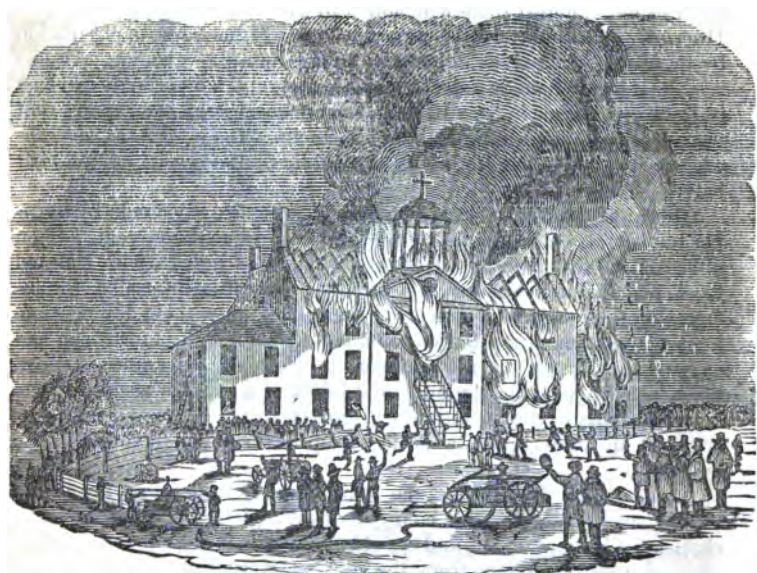
The property was insured for \$20,000, as follows:—

Truro House. Roger Williams, \$2500; Atlantic, \$2500; Merchants, \$2500; Washington, \$2500; Merchants' and Farmers', Worcester, \$2000, and \$4000 on the furniture, at the American. In all, \$15,500. The property cost Mr. Devens about \$25,000, and as he has the land left, his loss will not exceed \$5000 or \$6000. His safe, containing plate and valuable papers, was taken out the next morning in good condition.

Mr. Coggeswell was insured in the Providence Mutual for \$1500. Mrs. Geoffroy in the same, for \$1000, and Mr. Slocum also in the same, for \$1500, on his house, and \$500 in the Atlantic on his furniture.

Besides the above, Mr. Taylor, a boarder at the Truro House, loses Piano Fortes and Music valued at \$2000; Mr. Higham, Jr., the lessee of Mr. Slocum's house, estimates his loss at about \$1000; and No. 5 Co., by removal of their furniture, about \$100.

The firemen worked like men. They did their duty faithfully under the most trying circumstances. They were on the ground all night, exposed to a cutting wind and intense cold.



BURNING OF THE CONVENT.

Destruction of the Ursuline Convent, Charlestown, August 11th, 1834.

THE destruction of the Ursuline Convent in Charlestown, Mass., on the 11th day of August, 1834, was the cause of more excitement and more discussion throughout the United States, than any event that has happened in the Union.

There were various causes that lead indirectly to its destruction, among the most prominent of which were the reports of the confinement of nuns against their will, added to which was the escape of Miss Harrison, who confirmed the reports which had been put in circulation by those who desired its destruction. On Saturday evening, August 9th, the selectmen made a visit to the nunnery and left perfectly satisfied in their own minds in regard to the erroneousness of the reports that were in circulation, so far as the confinement of the nuns were concerned, but it was too late to notify the public of the results of the visit before Monday.

About eleven o'clock on Monday night, a bonfire was made by burning tar barrels on the highest point of a hill near the convent. Soon after a party of some fifty persons disguised as monks, with painted faces, assembled in front of the building, and after informing the inmates of their object of appearing there, they gave them a short time to pack their things and leave the building. When the time given had expired they began the assault upon the convent. The nuns, some of them, were placed in carriages and taken where they wished to go. The assailants in the meantime had broken in the doors and windows, smashed up the furniture, and piled it up in the different rooms in the building.

At about half past twelve, the main building was set on fire in the second story, and in a few hours it was completely destroyed. The chapel, the bishop's lodge, and the old nunnery, a large wooden building situated a short distance from the convent, were also set on fire, and burned to the ground. The work of destruction continued until daylight, when the mob dispersed, and all that remained of the famous Ursuline Convent was the blackened walls and smouldering ruins.

Explosion and Fire in Hague Street, New York, with Loss of Many Lives—Feb. 4, 1850.



ONE of the most frightful casualties, attended with an awful destruction of human life, that ever occurred in New York, took place at a quarter to 8 o'clock, Monday morning, Feb. 4, 1850, by the bursting of an eighty horse power boiler, in the printing press and machine shop of Mr. A. B. Taylor, Nos. 5 and 7 Hague street, within a door or two of Pearl street. As soon as the explosion took place, *the whole building, which was six stories in height, was actually lifted from its foundation to a height of six feet, and when it reached that elevation, it tumbled down, crushing in its ruins a vast number.* So great

was the force of the explosion, that fragments of the building were scattered in every direction; the windows in the neighborhood were broken; and a large part of the front wall of the fated building was thrown with tremendous power into the houses opposite. In fact, the building was completely wrecked, hardly one brick being left standing on another, with the exception of a solitary piece of wall eight or ten feet high, as if to indicate what *had been*. In the firm of Alvah B. Taylor & Co., there were about 65 persons employed. In addition to these, there were about the same number employed in another firm in the same building, namely, St. John Burr & Co., hatters. In the basement story was the engine and the blacksmith's shop, where there were four pairs of bellows and about twelve men at work besides Crissey, the engineer, and his brother. The engine connected with the second and third stories, where the machine shop was situated, by means of shafts and straps. The ground floor was occupied as a hat shop, and eight men worked at a table in front, of whom there is no account. The fourth story also belonged to the hat establishment, and was used as a blowing room. The fifth story of the building was used as a carpenter's shop for making models for the machine shop. The sixth was occupied by a Mr. Singer, a letter engraver. It is believed there was no person in this story at the time of the explosion.

A building immediately in the rear, occupied as a brush factory, and also as a watch case manufactory, had the roof and a portion of the wall thrown in by the falling ruins. The walls of the machine shop were very strong, being 20 inches thick. The building belonged to the Messrs. Harper, whose insurance had recently run out.

The soap and candle factory of Hull & Co., in the rear, was considerably injured by the shock.

So dreadful was the explosion, that the windows in several houses in Pearl street were broken. The explosion was like the reports of two cannon fired in quick succession, one after the other. Doubtless the second report was the crash of the falling ruins.

Immediately after the explosion, fire burst from the promiscuous heap of bricks and beams, and human bodies were seen with legs and arms sticking out—some of them dead, some living. The fire alarm for the district was first given, and then a general alarm, which brought the firemen from all parts of the city to the scene of desolation. Some plied the engines, while others assisted to get out as many as possible of those who were under the ruins. In a short time the fire was so far subdued that the firemen could work more effectually in removing the bricks and timbers; and towards 10 o'clock there was scarcely any flame issuing from the wreck; but the heat was very great, and the great difficulty to be avoided was lest those beneath the pile should be either drowned or scalded; while on the other hand they might be burned to death by the fire; and but little could be done to save those still living, until the fire was completely brought under.

As near as could be estimated, there were a hundred and twenty persons in the building at the time of the catastrophe, scattered throughout the machine shop, and the hat factory above mentioned, in both of which a great many men and boys are usually employed. Had the accident occurred an hour, or even half an hour later, the destruction of human life would unquestionably have been much greater than it was, as a great many of the boys, in consequence of the extreme coldness of the weather, had not at that time arrived at their work.

No sooner had this melancholy affair taken place, than thousands upon thousands collected around. The police, in a short time, formed a cordon around the building, at a considerable distance, and allowed none to pass except firemen, or reporters, or immediate relatives of those who were involved in the catastrophe. The Chief-of-Police was in attendance, and though wet to the skin, kept his post, and was very active and efficient. Capt. Dichett, of the fourth ward station house, and the Assistant-Captain, were also very active. The Chief Engineer of the Fire Department, Mr. Carson, was using his utmost efforts, and Zophar Mills was praised by every tongue; he was anywhere and everywhere that any good could be done.

The Recorder (Mr. Talmadge) was on the ground at an early hour, and was unremitting in his endeavors to release the unfortunate creatures whom it was expected were under the ruins.

As to the Mayor and Mr. Matsell, they were at the scene of the disaster without interruption, from the time of the explosion until the last.

As the bodies were recovered, whether dead or alive, they were conveyed to the Fourth Ward Station House, in Oak street, around which a file of police stood to keep off the thousands who thronged around to get a sight of their friends, either killed or saved, or who were attracted

from curiosity to see the mangled and charred remains of the slain. Some were killed in the beginning by the falling building ; some were killed from exhaustion, or smothered, or drowned ; and some were scalded, and some burned to a cinder, presenting the appearance of burned logs. Some were carried to the City Hospital, and some, who were only slightly injured, went to their homes. Those taken to the Station House were attended by Drs. William O'Donnell, P. W. McDonnell, Underhill, and J. Hiltcn. Dr. Traphagan, of Pearl street, paid every attention to the sufferers brought to his store. Everything in his house was at the service of the wounded, and his lady brought down the beds with her own hands.

At 11 o'clock, there had been some twenty got out from the building, but a number of voices could yet be heard under the ruins, and their cries were most piteous.

One poor woman, whose name we did not learn, seemed to be in the most extreme distress. Her father, husband, and three sons, were supposed to be beneath the ruins ! The silent yet hopeless sorrow of this sad daughter, wife and mother, who, by the sudden and terrible catastrophe, had probably been thus cruelly bereaved of nearly every earthly relative, excited universal commiseration. The magnitude of the sorrow seemed to rest upon her with a crushing weight, almost affecting her to stupor.

Among the narrow escapes, was one of a lad, who, with his dinner pail in his hand, was in the act of entering the fatal building when the explosion took place, and he suddenly saw the walls tumbling outward over his head. With one spring he gained the middle of the street, and luckily escaped without a bruise ; but a portion of the brick work struck his pail, and jammed it entirely out of shape. A gentleman met him at the corner of Pearl and Hague streets, running away for life, (and in his case, the poor fellow could not be running for a much smaller stake,) and upon stopping him, and asking what was the matter, could at first only get the reply of a most bewildered stare, in the direction of the still crumbling building. The frightened lad finally sufficiently recovered himself to state the cause of the consternation ; and then, for the first time, discovered the damage done to his dinner. With the very philosophic remark, "I had rather had my kettle smashed than be smashed myself ; but I suppose my cousin is killed, for he works in the same shop !" — he resumed his pace and pathway home.

Mr. A. B. Martindale, who was employed by Mr. Burr, the hatter, was engaged in weighing out fur for the hatters on the basement floor, in front of the boiler, towards Hague street, when the explosion took place. He recollects the sound, but was thrown senseless on the floor, and when he recovered his senses he found himself on his back, his knees drawn up, and a beam lying just over his head ; and other timbers were so close to him that he was unable to rise up, — but on turning his head, he saw a gleam of light, and, on creeping on his hands and feet, he managed to get out through a hole, just space enough to

admit his body. On crawling through, he observed a man likewise making his way out in the same manner. This proved to be Mr. Canfield, belonging to the machine shop.

It was feared that the large majority of them were either crushed to death, or drowned, from the immense quantity of water poured in. At a quarter to 12 o'clock there were three taken out—Henry Geradet, a man of about forty years of age, residing at Brooklyn, badly bruised, belonging to the hat shop; Frederick Tieman, a boy of about ten years of age, residing at the corner of Park avenue and Division street, Brooklyn, taken out by William Story, of No. 4 (Niagara) engine company, not much hurt; A. Eldridge, of the machine shop, residing at 142 Third Avenue, dangerously bruised. These poor fellows were dripping with wet, and shivering fearfully. The little boy stated there were others alive behind him when he was taken out.

Young Tieman proved himself, as Story stated, "every inch a man;" he did not give way to unnecessary terror and make much noise, when thus confined in the terrible trap. The fire was close to his feet, which were nearly immovable, being jammed in the fallen timbers, when the fireman, Story, reached him, and passing to the boy sufferer his cap, told him to put it over his face, while he (Story) played a stream through the pipe over and around him, for the purpose of quenching the flames. Tieman did as directed, and patiently awaited the hour of deliverance.

Several firemen had been at work some time before Story entered the hole, which was low down, near the engine, in the rear part of the building; and it was only by almost superhuman exertions that he was finally rescued. The voices of several of his companions could be heard in the vicinity, most of them giving way to the impulses of despair, which the little hero endeavored to check by every species of encouragement in his power. "What's the use of crying?" said he. "The firemen are hard at work; they'll get us out, if anybody can."

It became necessary to saw away a large timber before he could be liberated; and in this and other efforts none evinced a more unflinching determination than Zophar Mills, Esq., who was early on the spot, and worked with a zeal and courage beyond all praise.

Towards two o'clock, the multitude became very great, and in fact, all the day, though the cold was so great. The most tremendous excitement prevailed around the tragic scene—women tearing their hair and wringing their hands, as the dead, dragged from out the ruins, proved to be their friends or relatives; while others were in an agony of suspense, almost as bad as a knowledge of the worst.

One man was taken out of the ruins at the rear, after almost superhuman exertions on the part of the firemen, the sufferer having been caught between two beams, and covered with a pile of bricks. The beams had to be sawed, and the poor fellow kept waving his hand, which he had thrust through the aperture, in token that he still survived. More than once the firemen had to stop and play upon the locality where the poor fellow was confined.

Just as they were accomplishing his final release, the fire behind and around him raged fiercely, and the foreman was constrained to call out that the stream must be played upon it: "Oh," stop till we get him out—just a minute—we can stand it—the man's alive," the firemen replied. And they did stand it, and saved the man, though themselves much scorched and nearly suffocated.

Next to this man, wedged in an angle between two floors, were two other men, who also, by the noble efforts of the firemen, were ultimately rescued. One of these cried out, soon after eleven o'clock, that he was not much hurt, but that they were freezing him with water. Indeed, we wonder how the men could handle the bricks and work as well as they did, for the water froze almost as soon as it fell.

A curious incident occurred in relation to Geradet. An old man, about 65 years of age, with his grey hairs streaming in the wind, and the tears running down his withered cheeks, said he saw a coat hanging on a burning beam that he thought was his son's. It turned out to be so, and he thought he had surely perished. At this very time the poor fellow was in the station house, among the wounded.

The efforts of the firemen were then directed to the liberation of the others who were still living, and at about three o'clock William Merritt was reached, and likewise taken to the station house.

A young man named West was extricated from the ruins by Mr. J. Vanderpool of engine No. 15, and was so little injured that he walked to his home in Mulberry street.

Joseph Annable and John C. King were seriously injured.

There still remained several others who could be heard occasionally, and among them two boys, by the names of Samuel Tindale and Thos. Vanderbilt, who were soon approached near enough to converse with. They were buried almost down to the bottom of the cellar, near the coal, and in close contact with the engine, not a great distance from the spot where Tieman had been released. Over them, and all around them, were the burning timbers and the hissing bricks of the building, and it became frequently necessary to put several streams upon the reeking mass, for the purpose of quenching and cooling it sufficiently to allow the firemen to labor. The brother of Tindale was among the eager and excited crowd who were straining every nerve for the release of the sufferers, and through him young Tindale sent several messages to his mother, living at No. 84 Beekman street. "Tell her," said the poor victim, "that I am living—tell her that I hope to get out soon, and she must not worry!" &c. "I am up to my neck in water," he replied to some one who questioned him in regard to his situation, "and you must stop that water or I shall drown—there is a stick across my legs, and I cannot stir!" Then again, as the flames approached him, he complained of being scorched, and as soon as the hose pipe was directed on the fire around his narrow prison, he begged them to desist, "for the water scalded him!"

The only way by which his position could be approached, was through

a side door, opening towards the yard; and soon the rubbish had been sufficiently removed to permit his being touched with the hand, by reaching in at a small aperture. Through this, food and drink were passed to him; and, finally, a blanket, as he occasionally complained of being chilly. He appeared to be in good spirits, although his situation was truly horrible—since it was soon apparent that, in consequence of his being jammed against some portion of the machinery, it was not possible to extricate him in that direction. He himself told those who were thus heroically and unceasingly laboring for his deliverance, that “they must begin at the top and work down, if they wished to get him and his companions out.” And this course of procedure was at last resorted to. It was a herculean task; but amid the ever bursting flames, and the blinding, stifling smoke, steam and gas, bravely and manfully the firemen went to work. Their progress was necessarily slow, and as the shades of evening fell, the nearly superhuman courage of the poor fellow seemed, also, partially to give way. He frequently said he was cold, and when questioned in regard to the others, whose moans were growing fainter and anguished, voices ceasing, one by one, he said he “supposed that most of them were dead! There was a dead man close beside him, and he only now and then could hear one of the rest!”

As it grew darker, the interest seemed to increase, and every one evinced the liveliest solicitude for the ultimate safety of the boy, it being feared that he was the only one alive in the building. Indeed, it was scarcely possible that any one could be surviving, after such a fearful duration of agonizing suspense, the most of the victims being badly, if not fatally injured, and exposed to the destructive influences of fire, water, a foul and suffocating atmosphere, and the crushing weight of hope so long deferred. It seemed to all a miracle how young Tindale could hold out so nobly and so well, and the exertions of those above him were redoubled. Stick after stick, the charred and heavy timbers were carefully removed, and the heated bricks thrown aside, while coffee and other refreshments were, from time to time, passed in, to support the brave lad, who now, for over ten long and awful hours, had so nobly borne up against all the terrors of his situation.

For the last hour or two his brother had remained as near to him as he could possibly get, for the purpose of cheering the sufferer by his voice and presence; and it was truly necessary, since, as the night wore on, he seemed to sink, and lose the buoyancy which had sustained him so long.

About 9 o'clock it was ascertained that he was mainly held down by a large bar of iron, which rested diagonally across him, and confined him so closely that he could only move his left arm and turn his head slightly. The rubbish had been sufficiently removed so that his head and upper portion of the body were visible, and renewed hopes were entertained of his speedy release. At 11 o'clock it was proposed to cut off the bar, and some efforts were made to effect it. Meanwhile

the poor fellow was alternately the victim of despondency and anticipations of ultimate rescue. In one of his despairing moments he told those above and around him that he "did not think they could save him." "I shall be the *third* one killed by this affair!" [It had been kept from his knowledge that the fatality had been so extensive.]

ACTION OF THE CITY GOVERNMENT.

BOARD OF ALDERMEN, Feb. 4.—Alderman Morgan, president. On motion, the reading of the minutes of the last session were dispensed with.

The Calamitous Fire. A communication was received from the Mayor, recommending the suspension of business for the evening and the adjournment of the Board, in consequence of the appalling calamity which had befallen our fellow citizens by the destructive fire which occurred in this city this morning. The following is the Mayor's message :

MAYOR'S OFFICE, Feb. 4, 1850.

To the Honorable the Common Council of the City of New York :

GENTLEMEN :—A most appalling disaster has occurred in our city. This morning, at 8 o'clock, by the explosion of a steam boiler, an immense building in Hague street was completely demolished, and about one hundred human beings buried beneath the ruins, of whom but a few have been rescued alive. The members of the Fire and Police departments instantly repaired to the scene, and, aided by the magistrates and other authorities, together with citizens employed for the purpose, have done all, and are still doing all, that human efforts can accomplish. A strong force of police and laborers will be kept in constant activity at the scene, until the remains of all the unfortunate persons whose lives have been thus lamentably sacrificed shall have been rescued. This most heart-rending disaster has affected all classes of citizens with the most profound grief, and has carried into many families the severest of woes. Under this appalling calamity, I would respectfully recommend that the two boards of the Common Council appoint committees to take such measures as they may deem the exigencies of the case may require, and to report their action at a subsequent meeting ; and out of respect for the grief of those afflicted by this event, that the Common Council adjourn without transacting any other business. My communication is necessarily brief, as I have been during the day at the scene of the disaster.

C. S. WOODHULL, Mayor.

In pursuance of this recommendation, a committee was appointed, consisting of Aldermen Franklin, Griffin, Dodge, Cooke, Chapman, and, on the suggestion of a member of the Board, the Alderman of the Fourth ward—the ward in which the unfortunate circumstance occurred—was added to the list.

BOARD OF ASSISTANTS.—In this Board the same proceedings were had as in the Board of Aldermen; and Assistant Aldermen Ward, Alvord and McCarthy were appointed the committee from this Board, to report as suggested in the message. The Board then adjourned without transacting any other business.

CORONERS' INQUEST.—Coroner Geer was called to hold an inquest on the dead bodies of those already taken from the ruins.

—
Tuesday, Feb. 5.



At one o'clock in the morning the firemen and their assistants had succeeded in lifting the bar from young Tindale, when it was ascertained that another large bar or shaft of iron, confined his lower limbs! The poor fellow could still converse, but seemed to be growing feeble. He said that he felt no pain, but expressed an increased anxiety for immediate delivery. "Pull me out," he exclaimed, "if you draw my leg off." "Keep up your courage, my noble lad; we'll soon have you, leg and all," was the cheering response—and again were the exertions put forth with increased vigor. His hand was found to be scorched badly, and bandages were applied, and every other means used to make him as comfortable as possible. He partook of some food, and for a short time seemed more cheerful and confident. The fire in the neighborhood of his person had been mostly extinguished, and by the aid of numerous torches the work progressed with all the rapidity consistent with caution.

At four o'clock the last obstacle to the release of young Tindale was removed, and amid the shouts of his gallant deliverers, he was removed from the terrible pit in which, during more than *twenty horrible hours*, he had endured nearly death in its worst form. He was immediately wrapped in blankets, and conveyed to the drug store of Dr. Traphagan, in the arms of those who had so faithfully labored even against almost hope itself. All honor to the gallant souls who nobly and perseveringly strove for the rescue of a fellow being!

It was apparent, soon after the release of Tindale, that his injuries had been too great to recover from. The little fellow was completely prostrated, and could not survive the shock his system underwent. He rallied a little under restoratives, and identified his father and younger brother. He kissed his father, but was overcome by the crying of his brother. "Don't cry," said he to him; "that's more than I have done yet." His mother soon after came into the room, but the little hero was sinking fast. He could not identify her. In a few moments afterwards he breathed his last. At one time it was thought he would survive,—but his sufferings were too great; the poor fellow died at a quarter before nine o'clock.

An examination of the body of young Tindale showed that his sufferings must have been great indeed. Although his wounds were not mortal, and he probably died from exhaustion, his injuries were severe. There was a large hole burned in the back of his thigh—the flesh being burned to the bone, by pressure against a hot iron. He was burned, also, in both sides of the neck, by some of the heated machinery which fell upon him. One of his arms was also hurt. Well may he be called a brave fellow, so patiently did he endure his sufferings.

Up to nine o'clock this morning, four additional bodies were recovered, and were deposited in a building attached to the Fourth Ward Station House. Of these only one was recognized—John Dougherty, a hatter by trade. The spectacle which those bodies presented was heart-sickening. They were so much burned, bruised and mangled, that it seemed doubtful if the other three would ever be recognized. From the positions of the arms, legs, &c., it was apparent that they must have suffered intense agony before death came to their relief.

It was curious to see how some of the bodies were identified, when at first sight no human being could suppose it possible to identify them; the head, perhaps, burned completely off, with the arms and legs, and sometimes the whole trunk, turned into a piece of charcoal; yet some little token was found in their pockets, or some portion of the garments was still unconsumed, by which their identity was ascertained. It was a singular circumstance, that, in the majority of cases where part, and sometimes nearly the whole of the body was reduced to a cinder, portions of the garments were still preserved. This can only be accounted for by the fact, that a portion of the body was immersed in water, while the rest was roasted by fire.

Patrick Burns, one of the slain, was identified by several friends, by some token in his pocket, though the body was completely charred. John Rogers was identified by means of a silver watch. This body was supposed by many to be that of Mr. Crissey, one of the workmen employed in the building, until the watch in his pocket decided the identity. The head and limbs were so burned that no identification could come from either. In fact, scarcely one body has been found that is not mutilated in a frightful manner. The pale, trembling, anxious relatives, as they lifted the clothes, that covered the bodies, in the yard of the station house, and started back in horror at what they saw, or shrieked in an agony of wild despair upon recognition of the object of their search, presented a picture of woe which no tongue or pen can adequately describe. One old man was an object of pity to all who saw him. His name is Samuel J. Camp—one of the old revolutionary soldiers—who recognized the mangled remains of his son-in-law, Joseph Lockwood. The tears streamed down his aged cheeks, and his utterance was choked, as he inquired for his nephew, Jesse Huestis, who was then among the missing, though found afterwards among the dead. Another of the bodies was identified as George F. Worrall, by a young man named Doyle, by a key, a small watch, and some other things in

his pockets, together with a patch on the knee of his trowsers. The greater part of his body was almost reduced to ashes. The young man was his foster-brother.

In many cases, only detached portions of bodies were found; and some are so utterly destroyed as scarcely to leave a trace behind. Those in close proximity to the boiler were, of course, blown to pieces.

A lad named Powers had a miraculous escape. He was blown out of the fourth story upon the roof of the office, and was so little injured that he immediately proceeded home, to tell his friends of his good fortune.

The scene around the Fourth Ward Station House was very affecting. The wives, daughters, friends and relatives of the missing were going and coming continually, endeavoring to recognize the scorched bodies that were laid on the floor before them.

At half past twelve o'clock there were 22 bodies recovered in all; and now that the ruins were being cleared rapidly, and the attention and energies of the firemen, which had been concentrated on the poor boy Tindale, were directed to the digging up of the ruins with pickaxes and crowbars, bodies were being recovered every fifteen minutes, and it was thought a great number would be taken out before night—none, alas, alive! With the exception of Tindale, none were recovered alive since three o'clock on Monday, when William Merritt was rescued. Had the rest been ever so well, they must have been frozen to death in their narrow prison, with the last night's frost.

The scene when Daniel Doherty was recognized was the most heart-rending that can be imagined. The piercing, frantic screams of his sisters were frightful in the extreme, and added new horror to the tragic scene. Such a sight as these mutilated, blackened, calcined remains presented, was probably never witnessed before in this city.

At a quarter to one o'clock, three bodies were recovered. The face of one was recognizable—light complexion, sandy hair. The remaining two were burnt to a cinder.

At night fall, on Tuesday, thirty-three corpses, in all, had been found for the two days, and it was then deemed advisable to postpone any further search until the next day, lest the remains should be mutilated by the pickaxes, in the dark.

The Mayor has given an order that the bodies unclaimed, or in such cases as the friends are too poor to pay the expenses of a funeral, shall not be buried at Pottersfield, as the Cypress Hill Cemetery Company, of which he is President, have offered a free lot; and it is the wish of the Mayor and Common Council that those remains should be decently interred at the expense of the city.

The New York Bay Cemetery Company, also, sympathizing with the bereaved friends of those who lost their lives by the melancholy occurrence, offer them interments in their cemetery, free from any charge.

Wednesday, Feb. 6.



ANOTHER night of suspense and anxiety having passed over, the firemen, police and friends of those missing again commenced the search among the ruins at seven o'clock. The fallen bricks and mortar were soon cleared from Hague street, where it was supposed the remains of some women were buried, who, it was stated, were passing at the time of the explosion. This, however, turned out to be only a rumor, for no bodies were found there. Within the site of the building itself, the search was more successful. The success would have been much more complete but for the delay caused by the fear of the men working under a portion of the end wall (about half of it) still standing against the soap factory of Hull & Co. As the bricks were removed from the lower part of it, the less secure it appeared to be, and they proceeded to pull it down. They only succeeded in prostrating one corner of it up to twelve o'clock. They broke holes through the wall of Mr. Hull's establishment, and let down a rope behind it for the purpose of overturning the remainder, which they accomplished before one o'clock. This necessarily caused a delay of many hours, as the bricks filled up that portion of the building which was already half-cleared, and compelled the workmen to begin their labors anew. It would have been better, perhaps, to prop the wall, which would have had the effect of expediting the search for the missing.

The point which at the present time attracts the strongest interest, is the yard adjoining the Fourth Ward Station House, in Oak street, and an old and uninhabited building adjoining. Here the remains of the unfortunate victims are carried as fast as they are dug out, and left for recognition. Many of the bodies are so crushed and disfigured that they can never be known save by the keen eye of wife or mother, or daughter, which examines by instinct and decides by a magnetism of nature more unerring than irrefragable proofs. But besides the bodies, there are fragments, and limbs, and blackened 'stumps'!

In and around these premises, a crowd of women, young and old, many of them attended by children, are continually gathered; and the inconsolable weeping and convulsive sobbing of wives over their husbands, daughters over their fathers, and—holiest of all—the lamentations of mothers upon the mutilated remains of their sons, are enough to break one's heart to hear. No human being, however hard or bad his nature, could pass through this appalling scene without being melted to tears and choked with sympathetic agony. It seems as if all the mourning and suffering on earth had been, for the time being, concentrated here. In presence of such sublime sorrow as this, all the common griefs and bereavements of life sink into a silent insignificance, ashamed to make the voice of their complaint heard in the fearful chorus of agony echoing round these desolate and blood-bespattered walls.

It is ascertained to-day that two persons supposed to have been overwhelmed in the general destruction—named Marshall Vought and Clark Vought—are both living, and ought to be classed among the wounded. They went home immediately after they were extricated, and they were supposed to be still under the ruins. Marshall Vought's hands and face were badly burned. Clark Vought was but slightly hurt. He got out first, and then assisted his brother out; and it was curious how he did get out. At the first crash he was buried under a number of beams, and he thought he was irrecoverably lost. In another instant there was a second crash, which had the effect of raising the beams off him, and enabled him to get out. Then seeing his brother struggling to get free, he pulled him out, considerably injured.

Wm. Delander narrowly escaped with his life. He is, however, injured severely, being cut, scalded and bruised.

Isaac Osborne and S. T. Osborne are undoubtedly lost. On Tuesday, the friends of the former claimed a body as his, but it turned out afterwards that they were in error.

A. Scofield had a narrow escape, somewhat similar to the Voughts'; having been first buried under the ruins, and, by the second crash, the beams and flooring were lifted off him. He was but slightly burnt on the face and hands.

Five persons, of the number killed by the explosion, belonged to the benevolent order known as the Improved Order of Red Men. Their names are James S. Crissey, S. C. Osborne, Leonard Brooks, James Brooks, and John E. Lockwood. The order took charge of the bodies which were recovered, for the purpose of burying them with appropriate ceremonies.

At two o'clock, the bricks and rubbish of the walls prostrated by the workmen were nearly all removed, and one more body was discovered, making ten additional ones since morning.

Among the bodies before unknown, was found to be that of James Kearney, burned to a cinder, but recognized by portions of his dress.

The body of the "Dutch Frenchman," residing in Pike street, and known by that name, is also identified as Joseph Erningale, born in France, aged 18 years. This body was supposed, on Tuesday, to be that of Isaiah Marks, a colored boy. Identified by watch and keys.

The last body identified to-day was that of Matthew McLaughlin, aged 22, a resident of Broome street.

At six o'clock, the search was suspended until Thursday morning.

NARROW ESCAPE OF MR. C. O. JESSUP.

Mr. C. O. Jessup, the foreman in the hat shop of Burr & Co., was in the building at the time of the explosion, and from the account given by Mr. Jessup, it is evident he must have been one of the first that escaped from the building. Mr. J. says the part he occupied previous to the explosion, was the floor directly over the machinery, and he was

standing on the east end of the building, giving directions to one of the boys respecting the work, and had just taken a knife from his pocket to cut a piece of cloth ; that was the last he recollected of the business, as at that instant the explosion must have taken place. He states that he never heard the least sound of an explosion, but on coming to his senses, he found himself almost in an upright position, his feet and legs covered up with rubbish, one arm fastened above his head, and the other resting on a hot piece of iron, supposed to be a portion of the boiler.— While in this critical situation, his first thoughts were, that Mrs. Jessup was a widow, and his two children fatherless ; but he soon began to rally himself, and found that by moving his arm backwards and forwards, it became loose ; the same with the other ; also with both legs. He then drew himself up in an upright direction, there being but just room enough ; and in so doing, he cut his vest and pantaloons from top to bottom against possibly some sharp pieces of iron, the space being so contracted. As soon as extricated, he crept out from his terrible position, and jumped on the ruins of the blacksmith's shop alongside, scrambling over the broken beams and bricks to the next house in Pearl street. Here, from the back yard, he found the entry of the house, through which he passed, and hurried up Hague street. By this time his head and face were bleeding from contusions and cuts. On nearing the corner of Pearl street, becoming faint and dizzy, he called for assistance to a man passing, and fell on the arm of the stranger insensible ; he was taken into a drug store near by, and after being revived by the kindness of the druggist, was conveyed home, feeling a very anxious idea that Mrs. Jessup would feel as if she was a widow if he did not return, on hearing of the terrible calamity. Mr. Jessup considers himself one of the lucky ones, and we certainly concur with him.

Thursday, Feb. 7.



THE workmen resumed their labors at an early hour, in clearing away the mingled mass of bricks, mortar, broken machinery, charred beams, shattered tin, and rubbish of every description, in order to get at the remainder of the bodies. They were assisted by several volunteers, among whom were distinguished for their activity two members of No. 5 Hook and Ladder, and two of No. 8 Hook and Ladder, who carried the bodies found to the station house. Among them was N. Seagrist, who was so successful in extricating Wm. Merritt, the brother-in-law of poor Samuel Tindale. Indeed, all the brave firemen, throughout the week, and especially on Monday, acted like heroes, displaying almost superhuman efforts, and evincing a courage which shrunk from no danger. To the police all praise is due, for their unremitting exertions ever since the first scene of the tragedy.

All the day the footway on the eastern side of Pearl street was so jammed up with spectators, that the street was impassable, for the rest of it was enclosed by chains to keep off the crowd, and to prevent the workmen being obstructed in their labors. The ruins were piled up there and in the adjoining streets, presenting a curious melange.

The scene in the yard of the Station House for the last four days, during which the bodies have been brought there from the ruins, and exposed for recognition to eager inquirers of both sexes, baffles all description. Not only can no language paint it so horrible as it is, but no imagination can conceive the depth of horror. In many instances, that faculty of the mind exaggerates facts ; but, in this case, the reality outstrips the imagination. Here lay a headless trunk, so burned that it was more like a charred log than a human body ; there lay a corpse without feet or arms ; in another place one with the skull dashed in and the brain protruding ; and another with the features ghastly and distorted from the intensity of pain ; another still, with the lime of the building so interwoven with the mangled flesh, and frozen in the blood, that it looked like a piece of a wall bespattered with blood. In fact, there was scarcely anybody that had more than a faint resemblance to the human form when death ensues from a natural cause. Then there were legs here, and arms there, and pieces of flesh, so discolored and shrivelled with heat, as only to be known by minute inspection. In a basket lay a piece of muscle and a number of bones, picked up from time to time in the ruins, and constituting portions of many bodies, with which they shall never be united till the Day of Judgment, and the Archangel sounds the trumpet of resurrection.

Never since New York was a city—never in any part of the Union, was there so complete and so extensive a disfiguration of the human form.

Among the bodies identified to-day, was that of William Collins, aged 24, a native of Ireland, which was horribly burned and mangled, the blood streaming from his lacerated form ; yet it was easily recognized, from what the fire had left of his garments.

The next body was that of James Granger, a member of Granger's Brass Band, of Brooklyn, of which his brother is leader. His age is twenty-four years. He was born in London, and resided in Brooklyn. He was recognized by his brother, and a friend, not only by the remains of his clothes, but by a knife, and other articles in his pocket. The shape of his head, too, and a little of his hair that was left, confirmed the identity.

The funeral of the Brookses took place to-day at two o'clock, from the Station House, and was attended by a large concourse of friends. The remains were attended to their last resting place by the Order of Red Men, to which the deceased belonged.

The blacksmith shop having been got into, the body of Laurence Chrystal was found there, under extraordinary circumstances. He had a hammer in his left hand, raised over his shoulder, and was leaning

with the other arm on the anvil. How sudden must have been death in his case! The body was not burned in the least—the fire not having reached that part of the building. Near him was the body of his assistant, Robert Ross, which was also not burned. He has left a wife and children. The poor woman was in a state of frenzy at the station house.

The body of Stephen Osborne was identified by his ear rings, and by his dress, a knife and other things in his pockets. It presented a singular appearance; it was crushed beneath one of the printing presses manufactured in Taylor's establishment, and, by the pressure, was reduced to half its size. Death in his case, also, must have been very quick, and without much suffering.

Some of the other bodies found, present equally strange appearances. That of Alexander Huggins, who was a nobleman of nature, both in body and mind, had the hand raised over the head, as if in the act of defending himself, and the arm could not be moved from that position. The skin and flesh all peeled from the skull and arms, and the rest of his body was badly burned. He belonged to Acorn Lodge of the Order of Odd Fellows. He left a wife and children, and is much regretted.

The body of William Boardevine had on only the underdress, just as a man would, who was working. It was not burned, neither was the body, except the leg. In his case death must have been produced by smothering or crushing. His face was covered with blood; and a quantity of fur he was assisting Mr. Martindale to weigh in the latter's shop was fastened on his chin, just as if it were a beard. Both Martindale and Canfield, it will be remembered, who were close to him, escaped.

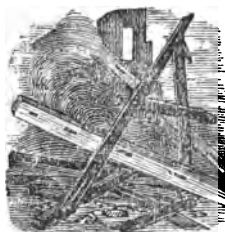
The body of Edgar P. Hurd was half roasted, half mangled; the limbs denuded of flesh. Some of the dress remained, by which it was identified.

Of the body of Joseph Hampson, only a headless trunk remained; yet it was identified by one boot, that was untouched by the fire, and by the remains of his clothes. Though his body was so completely burned, there was no part of his dress of which some portion did not remain—even to his handkerchief, of which his wife had one-half, which alone would have been sufficient to establish his identity. He had also lost a little finger before the explosion, which was a further confirmation.

The frost had a remarkable effect upon the bodies. It hardened and stiffened them, just as if they were so many logs, or portions of a withered tree struck by lightning. It is fortunate this calamity did not happen in summer, as the stench must have been horrible.

The workmen got through more work to-day than they did in the previous two days. Having got fair play, they succeeded in removing the greater part of the rubbish that remained. Ten additional bodies were recovered during the day, and all identified except one. This makes the number identified, in all, forty-eight, which, with six still remaining unknown, results in a total of fifty-four dead bodies. It is certain there are more in the ruins. The leg of one was seen at six o'clock, when the search was suspended till Friday morning.

Friday, Feb. 8.



THE laborers went as early and as vigorously to work as on previous days, and their search was rewarded with success. They found eight bodies in all; the skull, or rather a portion of the skull of a little boy, having a cap attached, being reckoned as one. The following is a list of them :—

Robert H. Stemmell, 15 years of age, born in Norfolk, Va.; resided at Brooklyn.

Cornelius Dougherty, aged 15, a native of Scotland.

James Collins, aged 14, born in England.

Charles Knowlton, aged 30, born in England; resided at 632 Fourth street.

Thomas Farrell, aged 24, a native of Ireland; residence 269 Madison street.

Peter Donahoe, aged 32, born in Ireland, employed in Taylor's machine shop.

Two bodies unknown.

Knowlton was found under a large fragment of the outer shell of the boiler, horribly mangled. His pay, (\$8.25) received on the previous Tuesday, was found rolled up in a piece of paper in his pocket, with his name written on it.

The sister of Farrell, on seeing the bloody spectacle of her brother presented before her in the yard of the station house, fainted away, and had to be assisted into the house, where such attentions as were necessary were paid to her. The scene here and the scene in the ruins forcibly reminded one of the prophet's scroll, which was inscribed within and without, with the words "Lamentation, mourning and wo."

The numbers which collected around the place were scarcely diminished from the former day; and the deep interest excited from the beginning, for the fate of the slain and the bereavement of the surviving relatives, has not yet passed away, notwithstanding the busy, bustling atmosphere in which we live, move, and have our being, in this great city. To-day, the multitude received an accession, from a class of men who (with the exception of two or three individuals) have not hitherto visited the ruins—we mean the professional men. It was not till to-day that they could see for the first time what particularly interested them—the fragments of the exploded boiler.

At 11 o'clock, the Coroner accompanied to the site of the ruined building in Hague street, several machinists, practical boiler-makers, and scientific gentlemen, to examine the pieces of it, which were scattered about or imbedded in the rubbish. Minute examinations were made by those who were subpoenaed as witnesses; and Mr. Montgomery, the patentee, who exhibited great anxiety that his boiler should not be misunderstood, introduced a plan and drawing of it.

LIST OF THE DEAD.

The following is a list of the dead, as near as can be ascertained :

1. Peter Hyde, 18 years, born in Brooklyn.
2. George Hyde, 28 years, born in Brooklyn.
3. Levi Hull, 28 years, born in Connecticut.
4. Adam Neally, 33 years, born in Ireland.
5. Leonard Brooks, 30 years, born in Rockland Co.
6. Alexander Dixon, 23 years, born in Canada.
7. Henry N. Reed, 29 years, born in New York.
8. Richard E. Egbert, 30 years, born on Staten Island.
9. Samuel Tindale, 15 years, born in New York.
10. Rufus Whiting, 30 years, born in Boston.
11. John Dougherty, 19 years, born in Scotland.
12. James Brooks, 20 years, born in New York.
13. Abraham O. Kelsey, 31 years, born in New Jersey.
14. Robert Hyslop, 27 years, born in Scotland.
15. P. Burns, 29 years, born in Ireland.
16. John Rogers, 34 years, born in New York.
17. Daniel Dougherty, 16 years, born in Ireland.
18. George T. Worrell, 17 years, born in New York.
19. Lemuel B. Whiting, 27 years, born in Brooklyn.
20. Loren King, 22 years, born in New York.
21. Jesse Heustis, 14 years, born in New York.
22. Frank Bartlett, 14 years, born in Hudson.
23. Owen Brady, 14 years, born in New York.
24. James Zuil, 33 years, born in New York.
25. Joseph Lockwood, 45 years, born in Connecticut.
26. George Harvest, 25 years, born in England.
27. Thomas S. Vanderbilt, 20 years, born in New York.
28. William Elliott Townsend, 15 years, born in New York.
29. Seneca Lake, 26 years, born in New York.
30. Edgar P. Hurd, 37 years, born in Connecticut.
31. Joseph Hampson, 29 years, born in England.
32. Alexander Huggins, 32 years, born in Ireland.
33. William Boardevine, 21 years, born in New York.
34. James Kearney, 22 years, born in Ireland.
35. Joseph Eiringle, 14 years, born in France.
36. Mathew McLaughlin, 22 years, born in New York.
37. James Granger, 25 years, born in London.
38. William Collins, 24 years, born in Ireland.
39. John Thurston, 16 years, born in Brooklyn.
40. George H. Davis, 37 years, born in Massachusetts.
41. Lawrence Chrystal, 23 years, born in New Jersey.
42. Robert Ross, 40 years, born in Ireland.
43. James Gulliper, 20 years, born on Long Island.
44. George Neel, 16 years, born in New York.

45. Isaac H. B. Osborne, 32 years.
46. George Ford, born in New Jersey.
47. William K. Bartlett, 17 years, born in New York.
48. Stephen Osborne, (brother of Isaac,) 35 years.
49. Unknown adult.
50. Unknown adult.
51. Unknown adult.
52. Unknown adult.
53. Unknown small boy.
54. Unknown small boy.
55. Robert H. Stemmell, 15 years, born in Norfolk, Va.
56. Cornelius Dougherty, 15 years, born in Scotland.
57. James Collins, 14 years, born in England.
58. Charles Knowlton, 30 years, born in England.
59. Thomas Farrell, 24 years, born in Ireland.
60. Peter Donahoe, 32 years, born in Ireland.
61. Body unknown.
62. Body unknown.

LIST OF THE WOUNDED.

A. Aldridge, much bruised.	Thomas Brooks, dangerously hurt.
Robert Annibal, slightly hurt.	Maurice H. Canfield, wounded.
Peter Campbell, wounded.	William Delander, wounded.
H. Geradet, badly bruised.	James Hyatt, slightly wounded.
H. Houghton, wounded.	Francis Hyde, wounded.
C. O. Jessop, wounded severely.	Robert King, wounded.
Wm. Merritt, dangerously injured.	James O'Dell, wounded severely.
James Powers, wounded.	William Proctor, wounded.
William Quigg, wounded.	G. H. Rowland, wounded.
Robert Stemmell, wounded.	Wesley Rowland, wounded badly.
Henry W. Smith, wounded.	Stephen Smith, wounded.
John Thompson, wounded.	Marshal Vought, wounded.
James Ward, wounded.	Clark Vought, wounded.
Frederick Tieman, slightly injured.	

THE MISSING.

Besides the names above recorded, there are a number of persons still missing, who are known to have been in the building,

BURIAL OF YOUNG TINDALE.

The funeral of the young lad Tindale took place on Thursday, and was very numerously attended. He was but 15 years of age, and is spoken of as a boy of great moral excellence, and much energy of character. He was greatly beloved by all who knew him, and for the past eight years has been a constant attendant at Dr. Spring's church, and an attentive member of the Sabbath school connected with that society.

Tuesday, Feb. 12.

The remains of the engineer, James Crissey, were recovered on Saturday, and contrary to general expectation, the body was not at all dismembered, and, when compared with others, very little disfigured. There were sundry burns and scalds on various parts of his person, and a severe injury about the middle of the nose. The features, however, were entire.

Thomas Brooks, aged 17, born in New York, has breathed his last at the City Hospital, and this makes the number of bodies actually seen dead from this fatal catastrophe sixty-four, which, with those well known to have been killed, but not yet found, gives the appalling total of at least seventy human beings who have lost their lives, besides the number which have been wounded, several of whom will probably soon be added to the list of dead.

Charles St. John, and Luke, the colored man, reckoned in the list of missing, are now found to be safe.

The relatives of the missing appear still to be dissatisfied with the search, and their dissatisfaction will not cease while a particle of the rubbish is left on the site of the unfortunate ruin. On Monday, there being no restriction on the part of the police, thousands have visited the scene, who before had not an opportunity of seeing the spot where the doomed building stood.

BURIAL OF THE DEAD.

On Sunday, the funerals of the two Osbornes, Lockwood, and Crissey, the engineer, took place from the Fourth Ward Station House to Greenwood Cemetery, the Good Fellows' Lodge and the Osceola Tribe of Red Men marching in procession, accompanied by two bands of music. A large concourse of persons attended the funeral.

FUNERAL OF THE UNRECOGNIZED VICTIMS OF THE EXPLOSION.

The funeral of the unfortunate victims who lost their lives in the late explosion in Hague street, and whose remains had not been identified by their friends, took place on Tuesday at 11 o'clock, from the Broadway Tabernacle. The house was densely crowded at 10 o'clock, and the numerous friends of the victims, in their mourning dresses, were all present. At the hour appointed, the ceremonies were opened with a prayer by the Rev. T. P. Thompson; after which, a hymn was read by Rev. Henry Chase, and sung by a numerous and well-selected choir. On its conclusion, the Rev. E. Hatfield read a portion of the scriptures; and, after an address, by Rev. H. A. Tyng, the ceremonies were concluded in the Tabernacle with a prayer by Rev. S. H. Cone.

Large Fire in Merchants' Row, Boston, Feb. 18, 1860.

ON Saturday evening, about 8 o'clock, an extensive fire broke out in the curled hair establishment of Messrs. Manning, Glover & Co., who occupied the third and fourth floors of the four story building between North Market street, Merchants' Row, and North street, and which was formally known as the Franklin House. The lower stories were occupied by clothing stores and boot and shoe dealers, whose damage was principally by water, the fire not extending below the second story. The room where the fire is supposed to have originated was used principally for storing new stock. No fire had been used in this room during the day, or within fifty feet of where it broke out. The store was shut up at six o'clock, and there is no way in which a fire could have caught accidentally. It was probably set by an incendiary, all the circumstances tending to confirm this belief. When first discovered, the fire was issuing from the rear windows of the third and fourth stories. A lad, the son of the proprietor of the Franklin House, on North street, first saw it, and instantly gave the alarm.

The firemen were promptly on hand, and in a very short time some fifteen or twenty streams were playing into the part of the building where the fire originated. But the whole upper part of the building was filled with combustible materials, such as feathers, hair, and patent wooden materials used in stuffing mattresses, a large amount of manufactured stock, and the ticking, &c., used in its manufacture, and consequently the flames spread rapidly through the middle portion of both upper stories, and soon burst out at the door. At half-past 11 o'clock the flames were so much subdued that many of the engines left the scene. At that time the principal injury to the building was between the two upper stories, and near the central portion of the building. Several engines remained on the ground to put water upon some of the stock that still burned in a smothered condition.

At 3 o'clock on Sunday morning, a second alarm was given, caused by the falling of about one-third of the wall facing Merchants' Row, causing the death of two persons, Capt. Chas. E. Dutton, of Washington Hose Co. No. 1, and Chas. Carter, of Warren Hook and Ladder Co. No. 1. Washington Hose Company was putting water on this portion of the building at the time, and Capt. Green, George Harper, (engineer) Frank B. Leach, George Delano, and Wm. H. Prescott, members of the company, were upon the fourth story. Captain Green requested a pole to punch the fire with, when Carter, a rake-man of H. & L. 1, in the story below, handed up his rake, asking if that would do. Green took the rake and went up to the top of the building with Harper. Just then it was mentioned by one of those on the fourth floor, that there was danger of the floor falling in, as the wooden support had all burnt out. Hardly had this remark been made,

when the floor, settling in the centre, crowded the wall out, and the whole went down with a crash. Carter, it appears, as well as Dunton, were both hit by a beam and knocked under amid the timbers, bricks and rubbish as it fell.

The excitement was great at this time. Fifty commenced overhauling the mass, and in ten or fifteen minutes recovered one body, and shortly after the other. Both were horribly mangled. Their skulls were broken, and their countenances dreadfully disfigured. Charles Carter, whose body was first found, was about 40 years old, and leaves a wife and three children. He has belonged to the department since a boy, and has been foreman of engine companies 13 and 6. He has also been the recipient of numerous gifts, for courage displayed while in the performance of his duty. His premature death was much lamented by his many friends and brother firemen. His body was taken to the engine house. Capt. Charles E. Dunton, the other man killed, was about 35 years old, and also leaves a wife and three children. He formerly belonged to Engine Co. No. 10, and has belonged to Hose Co. No. 1, for the last eight years. His body was taken to the dead house.

Three others, Frank B. Leach, George Delano, and Wm. Prescott, were severely bruised and cut. They had but an indistinct recollection of making sundry evolutions in the air in company with the falling mass, and picking themselves up rather hurriedly, they being fortunate enough to come down upon, rather than under the wall. Messrs. Green and Harper being both on the roof, received no material injury. It was a most remarkable escape.

The wall broke off on the second story, and all beneath remained firm, thus preserving the stock of those occupying the first floor from general ruin with the above.

The building was owned by the heirs of the late Samuel Hammond, and the damage was about \$10,000, which is fully covered by insurance. It is rented for about \$15,000. Samuel H. Russell and John G. Palfrey are the Trustees.

Messrs. Manning, Grover & Co. had a stock, including the raw material and that which had been manufactured, valued at over \$40,000; considerable of this was taken out, but all in a somewhat damaged condition. The loss to this firm is about \$25,000, fully covered by insurance, as follows: \$15,000 in the Royal Insurance Company; \$7000 in the National Insurance Company, both of Boston; \$2000 in the Quincy, and \$1000 in the Weymouth Insurance Companies. They employed about forty persons in this establishment.

Wm. W. Ayers, 47 and 48 North Market street, dealer in boots and shoes, was damaged by water to the extent of \$1000. Insured for \$2500 in the Charlestown Mutual Insurance office.

Richards & Lincoln, 44, Hiram Colbern, 40, and Elijah D. Eldridge, 46 Merchants' Row, all dealers in boots and shoes, were damaged about \$500 each. A German Barber named Schush occupied the second story over Ayers' store, corner of Merchants' Row and North Market street,

and was damaged about \$100. Messrs. Pope & Banefield, 51 North Market street, dealers in hats, caps and furnishing goods, sustained a small loss by water. They were insured for \$2000 in the Shoe and Leather Insurance office. William S. Fretch, 50 North Market street, dealer in cigars and tobacco, damaged about \$2000 which is fully covered by insurance at the Eagle office. L. Morse, 23 and 25 North street, dealer in ready made clothing, was considerably damaged by water; covered by an insurance of \$2500 by Reed & Hastings, agents in the old State house.

Besides the above there was considerable damage sustained by the occupants of the basements. Call and Curtis, 51, Joseph Boynton, 50, and Sartwell & Humphrey, 18 North Market street, dealers in country produce, &c., were each damaged from \$500 to \$1000 by water. The latter firm had a considerable lot of beans, that, being swollen by water, burst the barrels and covered the floor. Neither of the firms were insured. On Merchants' Row, Messrs. Tyron & Niles, pork packers, Dyer & Frost, dealers in hides, and George Bemis, pork packer, were damaged about \$500 each. Dyer & Frost were insured. The flames also extended into the store of Messrs. Breck & Son, agriculturalists, but there was not much damage done.

The funeral of Capt. Charles E. Dunton, of Washington Hose Co. No. 1, and Charles Carter, of Warren Hook & Ladder Co. No. 1, who were killed by the falling of the wall at the above fire in Merchants' Row, took place on the afternoon of Tuesday, the 21st of Feb. 1860, from the M. E. Church, on Hanover street. The deceased members were favorites with their own companies as well as with all who personally knew them, and, as is customary on the occasion of the funeral of a member of the Department, there was a very large turn out. Long before 2 o'clock, the crowd began to collect in front of the church, and at half-past 2 o'clock there were thousands congregated, filling the street completely full for nearly fifty yards on either side of the church. There was a squad of policemen in attendance, but such was the crowd that it was almost impossible to advance or recede from the doors of the church.

The remains arrived at the church about 2 o'clock. The bodies of both the deceased were enclosed in black walnut coffins. On them was placed wreaths, boquets, firemen's hats, and that of Capt. Dunton, his trumpet, which was won by him in a half mile foot race, several years previous. The mourners consisted of the widows of each of the deceased, and their children, and the near relatives residing in Boston. The body of the house was filled with members of the fire department of this city, and from Roxbury and Charlestown. The services were conducted by Revs. Mr. Ives, Father Taylor, D. C. Eddy, J. W. Dadman, Phineas Stow, and Rev. Father Streeter were present, seated inside the altar, near the coffins. The services were opened by Rev. Mr. Ives, by reading a hymn, which was sung by the choir, after which prayer was offered by Father Taylor. He very earnestly prayed God

to comfort, guide and support the widows and children of the deceased, and that all friends and members of the fire department may be warned by this sad event of the uncertainty of life.

At the close of the prayer, Rev. D. C. Eddy addressed the mourners and the congregation. He spoke of the cause of so large a congregation of mourners; it was nothing new to part with a friend. The trying scenes of the death-bed were every day occurrences, and death is what we have all got to prepare for. Two of your number were but a few evenings since called from their homes to do their duty; they left, perhaps, with the promise to return soon; hours passed away, and they came not, and finally the solemn and almost heart-rending news came to their families of their bereavement. This is what has called us together.

At the close of Mr. Eddy's remarks, which were very touching, the procession formed in front of the church, and marched in the following order: Red Jacket Hose Company of Charlestown; Warren 1 of Roxbury; Spinney No. 14; Webster No. 13; Tremont No. 12; Maverick No. 9; Boston, steamer 8; Suffolk Hose Company No. 6; Dehugue Hose Co. No. 5; Chester Hose No. 4; Hook and Ladder 2; Franklin Hose No. 3; Dispatch No. 2; Lawrence steamer No. 7; Eclipse No. 6; Extinguisher Engine Co. No. 5; Cataract No. 4; Eagle, steam No. 3; Antelope, steam No. 1; Massachusetts Hook and Ladder Company; Board of Engineers.

These companies formed the escort, and numbered about 400 in all. After them came the hearse, with the following pall bearers; W. R. Robins of Engine No. 12; Charles Barnes, No. 6; J. E. Clark, Hook and Ladder No. 2; B. King, Hose No. 2; C. C. Wilson of No. 6 steamer; E. W. Murray, Warren No. 1, Roxbury; E. C. Thompson, steamer No. 7; M. W. Rice, Red Jacket Hose, Charlestown; M. A. Jones, steamer No. 1; W. Wallingford, Engine No. 5; George E. Towne, Hose No. 4; W. F. Huges, Hose No. 2; Geo. D. Potter, Engine No. 14; J. C. Jameson, Engine No. 13; James Cowell, Hose No. 3; J. A. Young, Hose No. 5; T. H. Pitman, Hook and Ladder No. 2.

Following the hearse were the members of the two companies to which the deceased belonged, numbering in all about 100 men. There were also fourteen coaches with the near relatives and friends of the deceased. The hearse contained the remains of Mr. Carter, which was followed by the procession, part of the way, to Forest Hill, where they were interred. The remains of Captain Duncan were taken to the residence of his friends in Wincasset, Maine, where they were buried. All the companies of the Boston Fire Department were fully represented, except Barnicoat No. 11, one of whose members having died with the small pox, was being buried the same afternoon by the company.

At the time the procession commenced forming, the bells were tolled by means of the alarm telegraph. At the first stroke of the bells, it sounded so much like an alarm, that many of the members almost with an intuition, started out of the ranks.

Burning of the Gerrish Market, Boston.

APRIL 12th, 1856, a few minutes before one o'clock, a dense black volume of smoke was seen rolling up in the direction of the north part of the city, and in a short time the deep toned bells in connection with the signal boxes, proclaimed its locality to be in the vicinity of Haymarket Square. The fire proved to be in a large building on Sudbury street, known as the Gerrish Market, which was six stories high, and extended from Portland street to Friend street.

The fire took in the attic, and as a high wind was prevailing at the time, it spread through the entire length of the building, with fearful rapidity, and as the ladders used in the department were not of sufficient length to reach the roof, the fire was allowed to work its way down to the fourth story, before a stream of water could be thrown upon it with any force. For nearly an hour the flames were unchecked in their progress from room to room, and when the fire had penetrated down into the fourth story, the scene was truly terrific. The upper portion of the walls were entirely hid from view by the immense body of flame which filled up the market building, and the buildings on the other streets.

At this time the news of the conflagration had been carried to the neighboring towns, the firemen with their engines, and the citizens came pouring into the city by thousands. The large square with all of the avenues leading from it, were densely thronged by the living mass, while the house-tops both far and near were literally swarming with those who were viewing one of the most grand spectacles ever witnessed in the city. By the aid of ladders the firemen were now able to throw a few streams of water into the third story, but no hindrance was given to the gathering force of the devouring element, which now had undisputed sway, and all the efforts of the firemen to save the building were ineffectual, and their attention was drawn to the preservation of the surrounding property.

At three o'clock the walls of the market building commenced falling, and, as piece after piece came thundering to the ground, the forked flames burst forth anew. The noise of the falling walls was tremendous, and the danger to the firemen and spectators was great, still they ceased not in their labors, but continued on amid the surrounding dangers. That part of Haymarket Square next to Sudbury street, was a complete bed of coals and cinders, the heat of which caused the gas of a cesspool to explode thereby badly injuring three men.

About 4 o'clock, the steam fire engine Miles Greenwood, was brought upon the ground, and played two streams upon the ruin, being the first time that ever a steam fire engine was practically used in Boston. By this fire a large number of persons were thrown out of employment; loss \$250,000.

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Burning of the Fire Annihilator Factory.



ON pages 38 and 181 of this Book we have given a description of the "Fire Annihilator" of Mr. Phillips, and the wonders it *was* to perform; but it would appear from the following account of the burning of the factory in which these machines were made, that although large numbers of them were in the building, they were ineffectual in quenching the fire. On the forenoon of Oct. 31st, 1852,

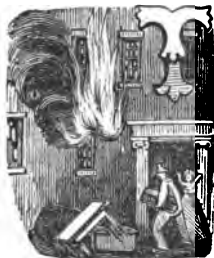
at a few minutes past eleven o'clock, the inhabitants of Battersea and Vauxhall were alarmed by the sudden outbreak of a fearful fire in the stores and works of the Fire Annihilator Company, situated on the bank of the river Thames in Battersea-fields, which was attended with a serious destruction of property, and, unfortunately, with the loss of one life.

The building in which the melancholy disaster originated was three floors high, and probably not more than thirty or forty feet square. One portion of the ground floor was used for the ovens for baking the composition employed in the machines for generating the vapor or gas discharged at fires for extinguishing them. Another portion of the building was fitted up as stores, and contained a large number of "annihilators," and between six and seven tons weight of the prepared composition, besides other articles used in the business. There were also about one thousand charges in the building, but none had been inserted in the annihilators.

Mr. Garrard, the person who had charge of the premises, went on duty on Saturday night, and was, as usual, to remain at the building until Monday morning. His wife, who was about 54 years of age, generally came to the works to prepare his dinner. She came as usual, for that purpose, about five minutes before the fire broke out, and the last time he saw her alive she was scoring a piece of fresh pork for the oven. Garrard having occasion to go across one of the fields to fetch his wife some herbs, he returned in less than two minutes, when, to his no small amazement, he found volumes of dense black smoke pouring from every aperture in the building.

Every endeavor was made by all present to subdue the fire by discharging buckets of water into the building, but without the least success, and the flames, as if fed with turpentine, spread with such rapidity, that in the space of ten or fifteen minutes every room in the structure was in a blaze. The charges of composition, on becoming ignited, emitted such showers of steam that the passengers in the steamboats passing along the river were greatly inconvenienced.

Second Great Fire at San Francisco, May 4th, 1850. 200 Buildings burnt.



THE city of San Francisco was visited by a second most destructive fire on the morning of the 4th of May, 1850, which reduced one-third of the city to ashes. The loss was set down at over \$3,000,000. It was thought to be the work of an incendiary, and a reward of \$5000 was offered for his apprehension. About 4 o'clock in the morning, the population of the city were aroused by the cry of fire—the United States Hotel, Portsmouth Square, was on fire, and by the time people were in the streets the flames had spread to adjoining buildings on either side. But little air was stirring, yet from the extremely combustible nature of the buildings, the fire spread to the El Dorado on one side, and Delmonico's on the other; and when the people had time to collect their scattered senses, strong efforts were made here to prevent further ravages, but in vain. The Verandah, opposite the El Dorado, was soon wrapt in flames, thence spreading along Kearney and Washington streets.

At the same time the fire was spreading with equal force down Clay street, house after house falling almost as soon as the flames touched it, till finally every building but two in the entire block lying between Clay and Washington and Kearney streets, to Montgomery, was destroyed.

In the meantime destruction equally as great and rapid was going on along Kearney and that portion of Washington street opposite the Square. Finding that the only method of staying the destroying element in that direction was taking away its food, every house on Dupont street, from Washington to Jackson, was torn down in the block—not a single building was left standing.

Thus it will be seen that the very heart of San Francisco was burnt out. Upon the several blocks mentioned, but nine buildings were left.

Not less than from 200 to 250 houses were burnt, and, as we have heard remarked, more property destroyed than could be in any other city in the world within an equal space.

Third Great Fire at San Francisco, June 14th, 1850. 300 Houses burnt.

A THIRD destructive fire occurred at San Francisco on the 14th of June, destroying four entire blocks; in all three hundred houses, and involving a loss of five millions of dollars. Every thing between Kearney street and the Bay, bounded by California street on the south, and Clay on the north, was burnt to ashes, with the exception of the Custom House. It originated in the kitchen of the Sacramento House, and spread rapidly in every direction. It commenced a little before 8

Second Great Fire at San Francisco, May 4th, 1850.



o'clock, A. M. ; and as the wind was high, it communicated quickly with other buildings. Part of the old burnt district was again burnt.

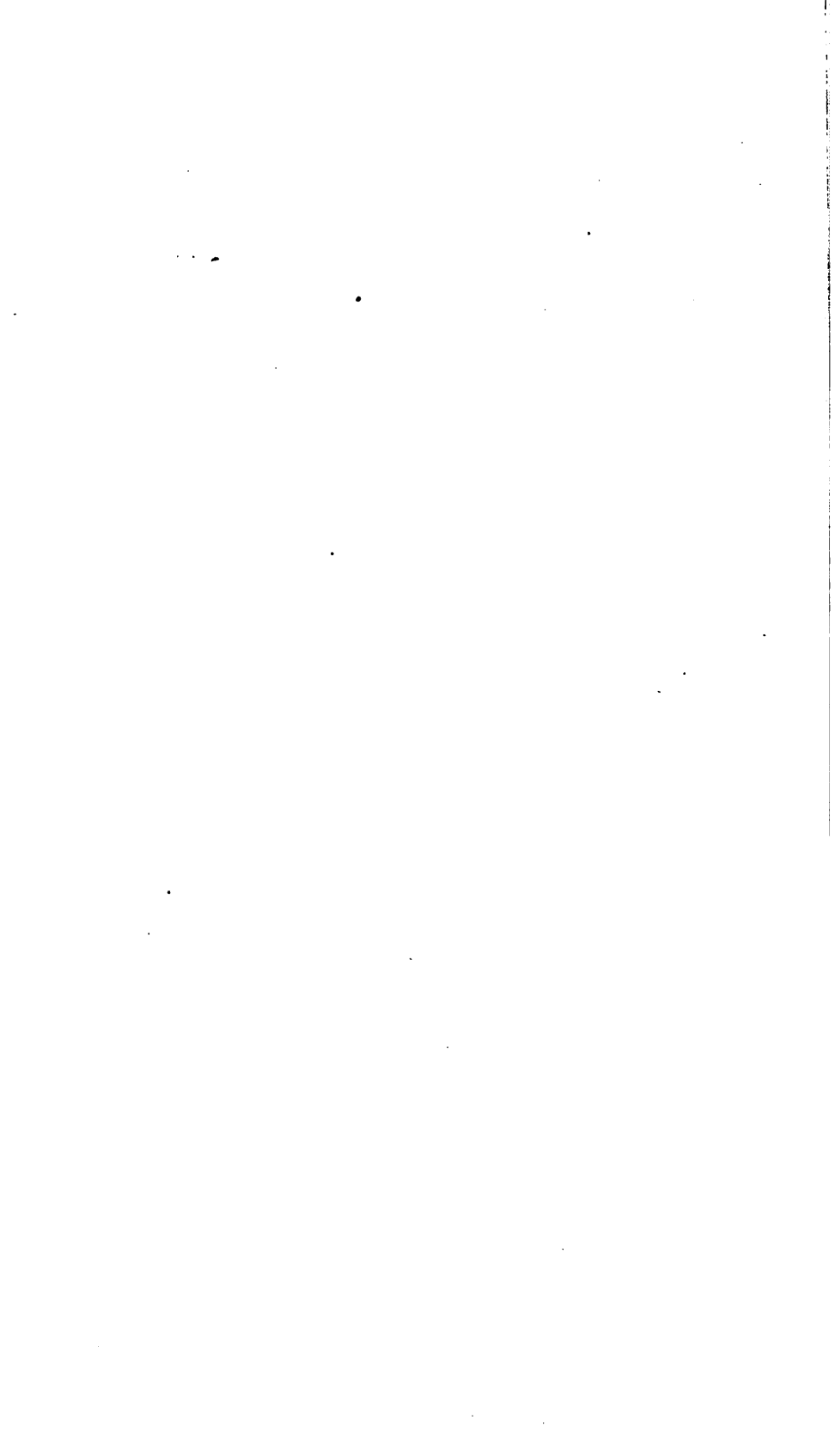
When we arrived at the scene of conflagration, says an eye-witness, the flames were roaring in an immense volume from the direction of Sacramento street to the corner of Montgomery and Clay. The mayor and all the principal citizens were promptly on the spot, but the supply of water being limited, no effort was of any avail to arrest its progress short of Clay street. Here a determined stand was made ; but notwithstanding the most active and ceaseless exertions, the flames spread to the north side, and extended as far as Mr. Nagle's unfinished building on Montgomery street. The banking house of Mr. James King, of William street was torn down, and this enabled the citizens to arrest the progress of the fire at this point.

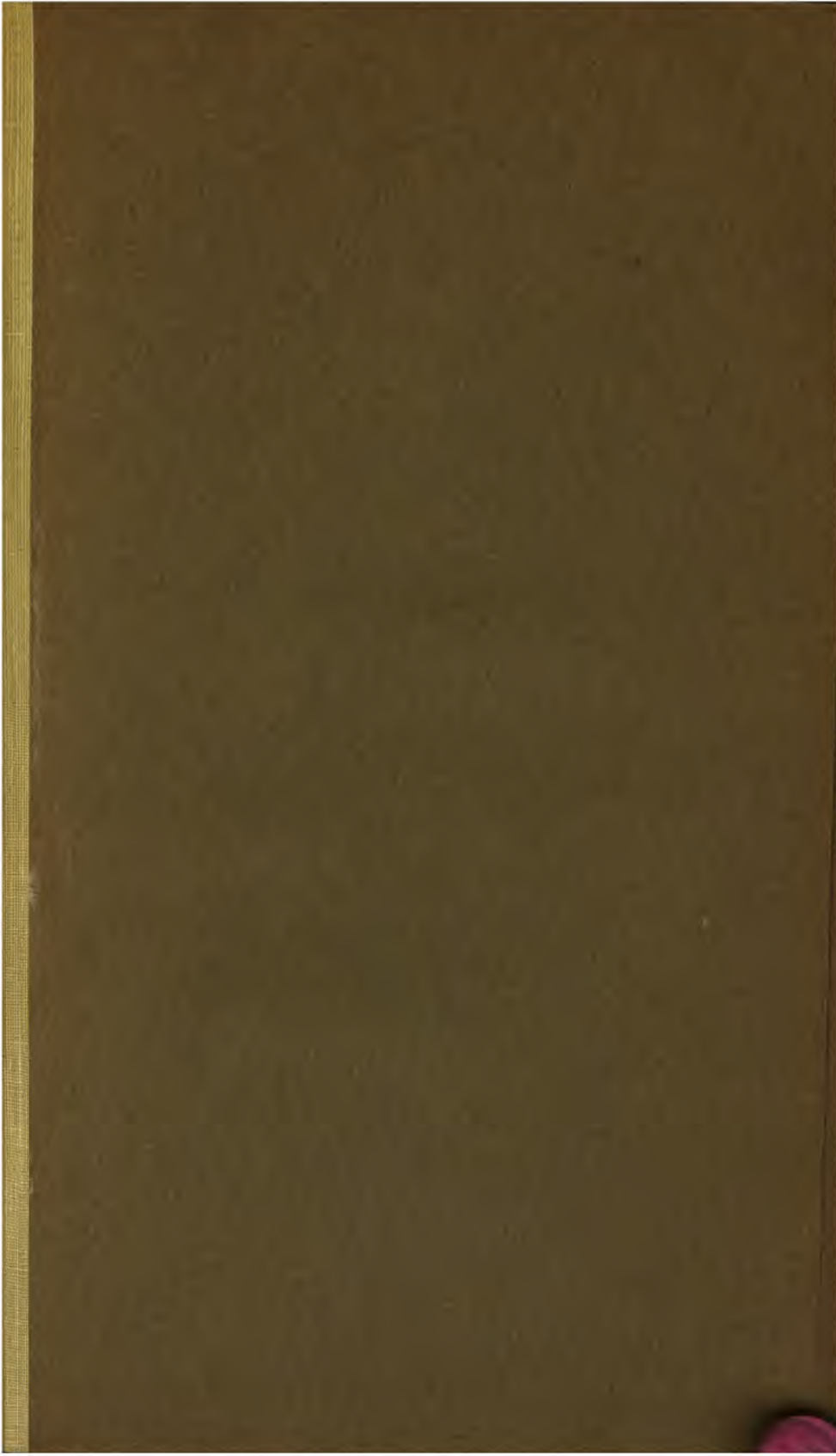
Meantime the wind carried the flames down with resistless fury to the water's edge, sweeping in its progress the whole of the blocks from Clay street on the north, to the north side of California street, inclusive, and from Kearney street, with the exception of a few houses, to the water.

In the destruction of merchandize, this has been more disastrous than either the fire in May or the fire in December.











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